

# 1910-1919 VACAVILLE

## THE PAST CENTURY

### City works through own teen years

By Richard Rico / Editor & Publisher

**T**een years and adolescence: Tasting life, testing values. So it has been with young people; so it was with a young Vacaville.

It's not to say that all factions of the rural community were preoccupied with the tantalizing fruit of discovery; most Vacans were God-fearing, hard-

working people dedicated to public service and progress. They went about performing these deeds in a time that was anything but easy.

Truly, simpler times meant harder times, and they demanded people of determination and grit. But like a child whose plate was filled with new and exciting treats — and few controls on what and how much it could eat — another segment of Vacaville wasn't quite sure what it wanted to be when it grew up. The 1910s era found the fledgling city dealing with some old temptations, and interesting new decisions.

There was demon rum, and pressure groups' determined fight for prohibition. There was rampant gambling in saloons along Main Street and in the Chinese district along Dobbins and Kendal streets.

A poker argument, a drawn pistol; a shot in the night. Not a frequent occurrence, yet it wasn't unusual either. And there were brothels. Despite town trustees' efforts to bring it under control, prostitution remained an intermittent activity as late as World War II. (See Teen years, Page 9)



Reporter file photo



Reporter file photo

The Carnegie Library (above) opened in downtown Vacaville in 1915. Women of the Red Cross (left) provided relief long before World War I.

Vacaville's first gasoline-powered fire truck was purchased in 1916 for \$6,000.



Vacaville Museum



Vacaville Museum



Reporter file photo

The world was going to war and Vacaville residents were joining in the fight. Vacaville's first registration for the draft for World War I (above) lines up in 1917. Edwin H. Uhl (left) is shown in his uniform in 1918.

### THE JOURNEY CONTINUES...

**T**he Great War abroad, and great challenges at home. Vacaville's second decade of the 20th century is Part Two of The Reporter's 10-month look back on the past 100 years.

This special project section will be followed next month with a look at the '20s, followed by the '30s in June, and so on until our review of the com-

munity's place in the past century is completed in late December. Readers are encouraged to save each decade section and combine them for a concise historical perspective. Additional copies, bound in an archival Leatherette cover, will be available for purchase when the project is complete.



#### Age of the auto

The automobile becomes more of an important part of everyday life for Vacaville residents. / Page 3

#### Vacaville goes to war

City residents are among those fighting the Hun. / Page 4

#### Fruit remains king

The Vaca Valley fruit industry continues to be central to the local economy. / Page 9

#### New home for books

Five-year effort helps secure a Carnegie grant to build a new library. / Page 17



# LITHIA TOYOTA OF VACAVILLE

## 1913

The first continuously moving car assembly line is invented.



It would take that entire plant over two years to solely produce the number of **Toyota Camrys** sold in 1998.

*With numbers like that, and features like these,  
it's no wonder the Toyota Camry has been the number one selling car two years in a row.*

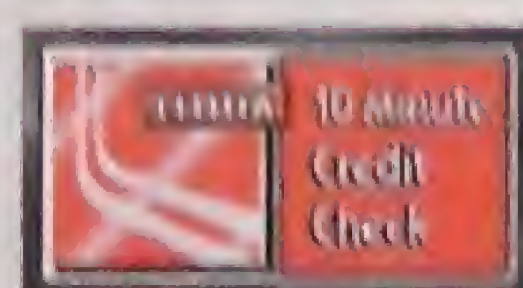
- 3.0 liter four-cam 24-valve EFI V6
- Daytime running lights with auto on/off feature
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- Anti-theft system with engine immobilizer
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Every Lithia used vehicle is thoroughly inspected before we warranty it for up to 60 days or 3,000 miles.



Complete a simple form and in ten short minutes you'll get a simple credit answer to determine which of our many credit sources can best suit your needs.

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Thinking about selling your car but don't know its value? In 30 minutes or less, we'll appraise your car for its current market value. Then if you like, we'll buy it from you, on the spot.



Walk into a Lithia showroom, select your vehicle and we'll make every effort to complete the paperwork in 90 minutes.



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### GUIDING PRINCIPLES

**Quality comes First** — To achieve customer satisfaction, the quality of our products and services must be our number one priority.

**Customers are the focus of everything we do** — Our work must be done with our customers in mind, providing better products and services than our competition.



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Reporter file photo

More automobiles were on Main Street Vacaville in the 1914 and afterward (above), and car ads in the newspaper (below) also became more prevalent. The auto was here to stay.

# AGE OF THE AUTO

## Automobiles motor into town to stay

By Cynthia Roberts  
Special to The Reporter

**A** Vacaville garage owner estimated 100 cars a day were passing through town in August 1915 from as far away as Utah and Minnesota.

The state completed plans in April 1913 that put Vacaville on the route of the new highway between Sacramento and Benicia.

Pity the poor Northern Electric Line that shuttled people between Vacaville, Fairfield and Suisun. In June 1914, the service was at last begun after 12 years of planning and building. Now it faced a competitor greater than the mighty Southern Pacific railroad: the automobile.

The Maxwell, Hudson, Ford

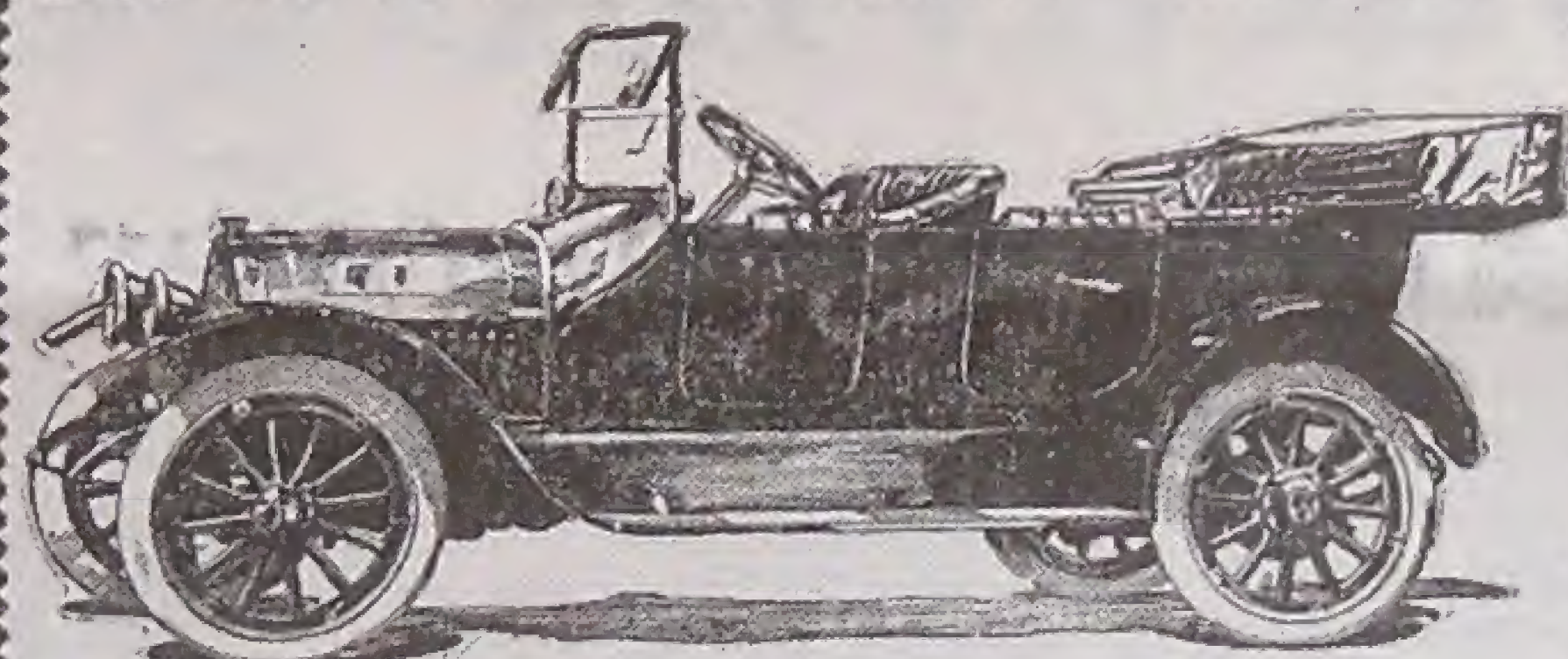
and Pierce Arrow captured the independent spirit that possessed many of the families who came to California as pioneers.

Not only could people travel to and from town in these amazing machines, they could actually venture out to new destinations at a moment's notice.

It must have been a case of spring fever when in March 1916, "led by the Davis band, 27 automobile loads of Davis people slipped over the Yolo causeway Saturday night and surprised Sacramento by making the first excursion across the tules."

Such independence also meant less reliance on the railroad, the privately owned railroad that had flexed much financial and political muscle in

See the 1914 Studebaker! It's Here!



CARL C. CRYSTAL, Agent  
Vacaville, Cal.

its dominance of the nation's transportation system.

Vacaville fruit farmers had bitter battles with Southern Pacific over rates and service for years. Any opportunity to snub the railroad must have been appealing.

The power of the rubber tire will be greater than that of a railroad steel tire, predicted a

June 11, 1915, article reprinted by The Reporter from the Agricultural and Commercial Press Service. "The roadbed was already prepared and therein lies the power of the rubber tire over that of iron, for the government builds and maintains the public highway... it will traverse the continent with a net- (See Age of the auto, Page 6)

## 'The machine' makes impact in many ways

By Cynthia Roberts  
Special to The Reporter

**P**utting man in "the machine," as they liked to call the automobile in the 1910s, was an inevitable clash, bang, boom.

Nothing of the horse-and-wagon era compared to the calamity that occurred when "autoists" hit the road, whether in or between towns.

As early as 1905, town trustees began setting rules for the conduct of automobile drivers and moved to restrict "the machine's" speed and even its presence on Main Street during business hours.

And automobile drivers seemed to be emboldened with the new speed of their machines and tried to beat the train at

many a crossing, only to be killed.

William Sullivan of Birds Landing was one of the luckier ones in November 1918. He attempted to run a crossing in Elmira despite the fast clip of the oncoming train. The car was demolished while Sullivan "was carried quite a distance on the cowcatcher before the train was stopped." He was unconscious and had a broken arm, but survived.

In 1910, teenager Stanley Blake was riding his bicycle home from work when he hit a car and was knocked unconscious. Two Japanese people stopped to help, noted The Reporter, but were unable to flag down any passersby who (See 'The machine,' Page 6)

# LOCAL VIEW TURNS OUTWARD

## World alters Vacaville outlook

By Julie Davidow/Staff Writer

**I**n the second decade of the century, Vacaville residents peered over their orchards and spied the world beyond.

Within a span of 10 years, the town of just under 1,500 sent its residents to fight in a world war, nursed itself back to health from a global influenza epidemic, incorporated the automobile into daily life, and welcomed visitors from near and far bearing new ideas and forms of entertainment.

The town emerged perhaps humbled by experiences greater in scope and significance than the sum total of annual fruit shipments.

Conceding a long-festering racial divide in the community, the Home Fires Society invited residents to a Japanese children's show at the Christian Church on June 16, 1918.

"If you are interested in the banishing of prejudice against this race of people, you should consider it our duty to attend," urged The Reporter's notice.

The Home Fires Society is determined to break down the prejudice that has been created by a yellow press, because they feel that, after the war, a new spirit of understanding and sympathy should be developed between all nations."

Vacaville residents greeted new ideas gingerly, enthusiastically welcoming speakers who came to talk

on everything from socialism to Buddhism, while remaining careful to avoid piercing the fabric of society too deeply.

The Reporter heralded the appearance of a speaker in September 1914 who "arrived in Vacaville Wednesday in (an) automobile, bringing the gospel of socialism. . . Mr. Pendleton proved to be an interesting talker, forcefully presented his contentions."

When changes in national labor laws were proposed in 1914, however, the academic merits of socialism paled in town leaders' eyes compared to the economic impact of an eight-hour day and a minimum wage.

The Reporter stood firm in its opposition to "purely socialistic" eight-hour work days.

"Do not fail to vote on the eight-hour amendment," stated an October 1914 editorial. "Its defeat would give the message to the country that the California voters are not for freak legislation that tends to throttle enterprise and crush industrial activity."

Having secured the vote in California in 1911, Vacaville's progressive women worked to sidestep the "militant" label assigned to suffragettes in The Reporter's coverage of the national movement.

The Mothers' Club of Vacaville in 1913 planned a (See Local view, Page 9)

Trends  
of the  
Times



Reporter file photo

The Newberry Band attracts attention to the offerings at the Grand Theatre sometime after 1915. The theater became one of the city's social centers in years to come.



## Vacaville: A Glance BACK

### 1910

■ April — Vacaville voters again decided to stay dry of alcohol. Vote was 136 to 176.

■ James D. McClain, founder of The Reporter, dies.

### 1911

■ Slot machines prohibited by town trustees.



■ Japanese Buddhist temple completed in Vacaville.  
■ Ulatis Creek Bridge built.

### 1912

■ Saturday Club opens Vacaville's first public library in a small room on the corner of Main and Dobbins.

### 1913

■ Scheduled service of electric trains begins between Vacaville and Suisun.

■ Major fire destroys three buildings in the growing Japanese district of Vacaville.

■ The Chautauqua, a traveling troupe that brought high-quality entertainment and lectures to Vacaville, makes its first visit.

■ State highway commission to route the main San Francisco to Sacramento highway through Vacaville.

### 1914

■ Main Street paved.

■ Local Presbyterian minister Arthur C. Fruhling brings the Boy Scouts to town.

## Widow Pena dies from la grippe

With the death last Monday of Mrs. Maria Inez Pena, widow of the late Demetrio Pena, there passed away one of the oldest residents of Vacaville, she having resided here continuously since 1849. The immediate cause of death was la grippe, but she had been falling for some time, owing to the infirmities of old age.

Funeral services were held Wednesday morning at 10 o'clock from the Catholic church and the interment was in Fairfield Cemetery.

Deceased was the daughter of Nazario Berryessa, and she was born in Monterey in 1826. From there the family moved to Sonoma County, which remained her home until 1849, when she was united in marriage to Demetrio Pena and came with her husband to live on the Pena ranch in Lagoon Valley, of which Lagunita Rancho, now owned by Mrs. E.P. Buckingham, is a portion. She was the mother of 12 children, of whom only two are living — a daughter, Neavis, and son Fred. She also leaves a sister, Mrs. Beasley of Willows, who is six or seven years older than Mrs. Pena, but who was until recently able to pay yearly visits to her sister at Vacaville.

The Reporter  
March 14, 1913

## Shop in Vacaville for best bargains

No need for anyone to leave town in search of bargains. All next week there will be plenty of them in Vacaville. Three of the leading stores are advertising them, the idea being to reduce the stock of summer goods to make room for the fall and winter stock. Rather than carry anything over to next summer they are offering real bargains.

The firms advertising sales are R. Schaefer, Crystal's and Arnold & Bugbee. Read the hand bills and their ads in this issue and get ready to take advantage of the bargains offered.

The Reporter  
July 12, 1912



## Clubhouse goal of ladies' club

The presence of three ladies at the meeting of the board of town trustees last Tuesday evening added a pleasing variation to the usual routine session, and the errand upon which the ladies came was also one which gained the immediate approval of the board.

The ladies were Mrs. C.G. Robinson, Mrs. F.A. Steiger and Mrs. George P. Akerly, who appeared as a committee from the Saturday Club to ascertain if the board would grant the club permission to erect a club house on the town land at the east end of the Main Street bridge and lying between the high school property and college street. It was explained to the board that the ladies did not expect to commence building operations for some time yet... they would grade and improve the lot and keep it in good condition until such time as they did build.

The trustees were apparently very favorably impressed with the plan, and President Akerly appointed Trustees Arnold Johnson and Strong, a committee to meet with the committee from the Saturday Club, look over the land which is desired as a site for the club house, and ascertain if they could legally grant the request.

The Reporter  
Sept. 24, 1915



Vacaville's first registration for the draft for World War I lines up in 1917. City residents were killed and wounded in the war.

# Vacaville goes to war

## Local residents give to effort in many ways

By Sally Miller Wyatt  
Special to The Reporter

People living Vacaville were unable to escape the effects of World War I even though they were thousands of miles and a continent away.

After the war began in Europe in 1914, growing concern for its impact on Europeans and the United States was reflected in the pages of The Reporter.

During the Christmas holidays of 1916, area churches and the Red Cross Society pleaded with parishioners and residents to donate new or used clothing to be sent to the "less fortunate" overseas. Vacaville residents readily came forward to donate many boxes of goods and as much as \$57 in cash for "the destitute in Belgium." It would not be the last time that area residents would come forward to help.

In the years before the United States officially entered the war, Vacaville residents had been reading in The Reporter about "atrocities in Europe." On Jan. 9, 1917, readers knew things were seriously escalating when they read in a story headlined "On the Brink of War" that President Wilson had "broken off diplomatic ties with Germany."

A Feb. 3, 1917, editorial described the mood of area residents: "We're far from being war-like but will be in first class fighting trim if necessary."

Frequent articles referred to the higher cost of living, attributing strains on local budgets to the overseas effort.

On April 6, 1917, just four days after President Wilson declared war against Germany, the Vacaville Red Cross put out a call for interested people to meet and "make plans for our soldiers if they are needed." Less than three weeks later, an Army recruiting party had come to town as part of a caravan of automobiles carrying recruiters on a 17-day journey that started in San Francisco and was set to visit as many towns as possible between Redding and San Luis Obispo. Navy recruiters had already been here looking for interested recruits to serve aboard the USS Huntington, which was "short of a full crew."

By the end of April 1917, the Red

Cross also had recruited a large number of new members — 110, in fact — to help collect everything from funds to bedsheets to help in the war effort.

An April 20, 1917, story in The Reporter named Vacaville's first enlistees: Will Johnson, Marvin Olsen, Walter Rutherford, McKinley Crook, Elmer King and Vernon Christopher.

At the same time, a Home Guard unit was formed and 130 residents signed the roll call. The group named Dr. H.P. Palmer as their president, and sang "My Country 'Tis of Thee" at their first meeting. Their slogan: Enlist or Plant. The group held their first drill a week later and, realizing they needed to be in better physical shape if they were called to war, agreed to increase drilling to twice a week.

In May 1917, residents were again asked to donate money for a good cause. This time it was 7 cents each to feed Belgian children during "Envelope Day." The effort later realized \$45. Farmers also were urged to increase production, and housewives were asked to conserve.

The first call for draft registration went out on May 25, 1917, and on July 13, 1917, the names and lottery numbers of all eligible draftees were published. One of the area's earliest enlistees — Walter Woods — wrote a letter describing "a day in the life of camp," that was the first of many letters home to be published in The Reporter.

"By the time the bread gets to us it is two days old. Our doctor won't let us eat fresh bread," he noted.

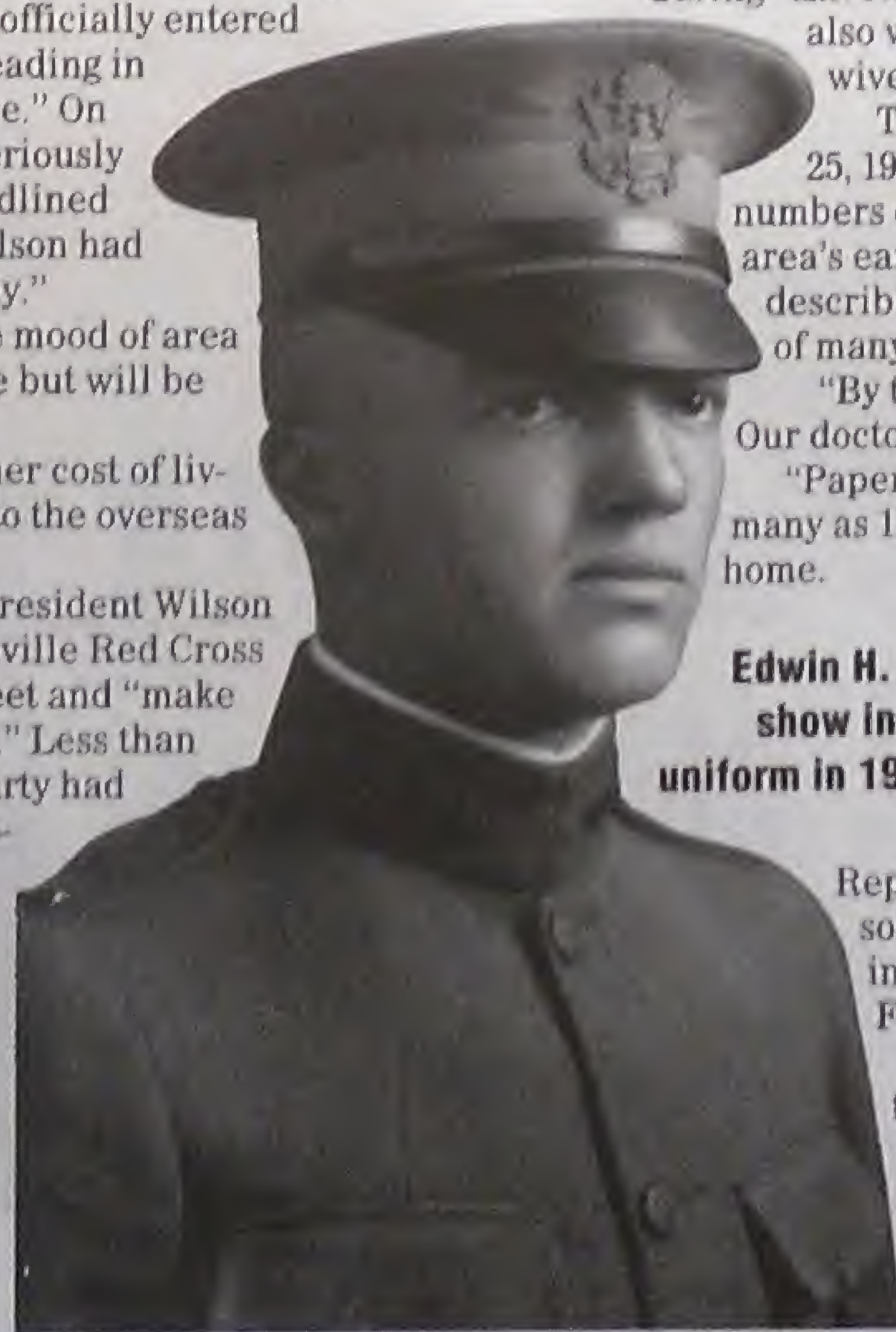
"Paper and ink here are free," he said, adding that as many as 150 took advantage of the donation to write letters home.

By August 1917, another article noted that 118 Solano County men — 10 of them from Vacaville — had passed their physicals and were on their way to camp. Another 125 left for camp in late September and 82 more in October. By this time The

Reporter was publishing frequent letters from area soldiers recounting their experiences first at training camp and then as they made their way to France and England.

In late December 1917, Franklin Jewitt wrote that during their crossing "we had to dodge submarines."

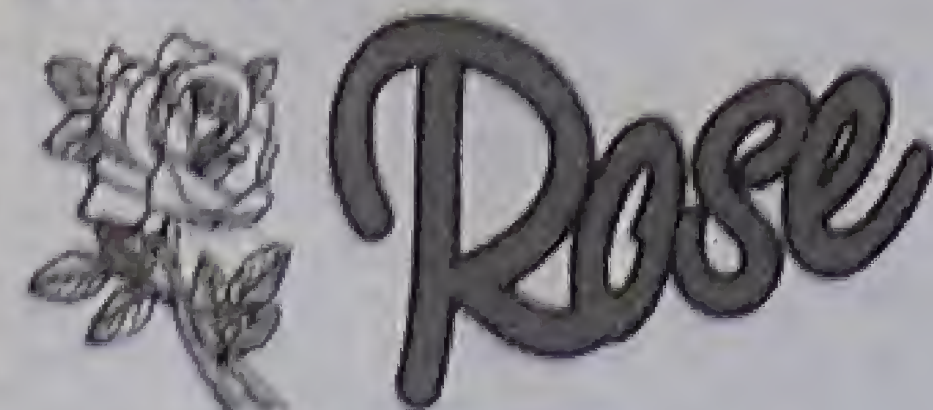
Back at home, residents were notified that new war taxes soon would be levied, amounting (See Vacaville goes to war, Page 5)



Edwin H. Uhl  
show in his  
uniform in 1918.

Vacaville Museum

Find All Your Flower Needs At



Florist & Gift Shop  
Family owned since 1955

Rose Florist started in a small room at Vacaville Nursery which was owned by Celestina & Joe Lopez, the parents of John & Rose Lopez. They were located at the corner of Merchant and Elm Streets.

218 Main Street • 448-4222



Celestina & Joe Lopez

## Women's Hairstyles in Changing Times



A. F. Godefroy invented the first hot blast hairdryer, freeing ladies from the all-day task of drying their long hair. Stylish women all over the country sported shorter hair as their hairstyle. Women with straight hair could modify their look with a permanent wave. These innovations, coming at a time when American women were seeking outward expression of their independence, created a boom in the beauty business that brought innumerable women into the salon as regular patrons. This new style of woman, with her shorter hair, voting rights, and greater economic opportunity, made self-improvement her goal.

G. Norman Hair  
358 Merchant St. • Downtown Vacaville  
449-3837

## Help Scarecrow find his way to the Emerald City!

Camille Beckman

- Banners, Windsocks & Accessories
- Margaret Furlong Collectibles
- Mary Engelbreit Garden Decorations

## Yellow Brick Road

313 Parker Street  
Vacaville • 448-8278



## 1915

- New Carnegie Library opens in July.
- Ordinance making all gambling illegal in Vacaville passes.
- Legislature passes state's first fresh fruit standardization law.

## 1916

- First gas-powered fire truck purchased.
- Frank H. Buck dies — described by Reporter as "capitalist, fruit grower and oil magnate."
- Fire Department reorganized into 30-man unit that is more efficient.



## 1917

- Vacaville boys go off to fight World War I.
- A new formed "home guard" unit, made up of 130 mostly older local men, begins drilling.

## 1918

- Flu epidemic comes to Vacaville. More than 60 cases of influenza reported in less than one month.

## 1919

- Buck Company completes first of two packing houses.
- Taxi service begins in Vacaville.
- William James Pleasants dies. One of California's fruit pioneers, he arrived in 1850 with his parents to settle in what is now known as Pleasants Valley.



# Red Cross' lengthy presence

## Group provided relief long before the Great War

By Sally Miller Wyatt  
Special to The Reporter

The Red Cross in Vacaville had been working for some time to provide help during emergencies before the call went out in April 1917, for interested people to meet and "make plans for our soldiers if they are needed."

A local chapter was organized in 1898, to prepare bandages for the Spanish-American War.

Later, they went to the aid of refugees from the San Francisco earthquake and fire of 1906. They set up tents, collected food and clothing and cared for more than 50 such refugees.

During the decade of 1910 to 1919, the local Red Cross was very active. It organized food and clothing drives for Belgian Relief, raised more than \$12,000 for the national chapter, and sent holiday packages to soldiers overseas.

The group's biggest test, reports "Vaca-



Women of the Red Cross in Vacaville pose for a portrait during a 1918 war bond rally.

ville History," came during the influenza epidemic of 1918-1919, when more than 60 cases of the disease were reported here in less than a month. The Red Cross operated two emergency hospitals, one on Davis Street and another in the annex at the Presbyterian Church. Volunteer nurses worked around the clock to care for the patients; 10 died before

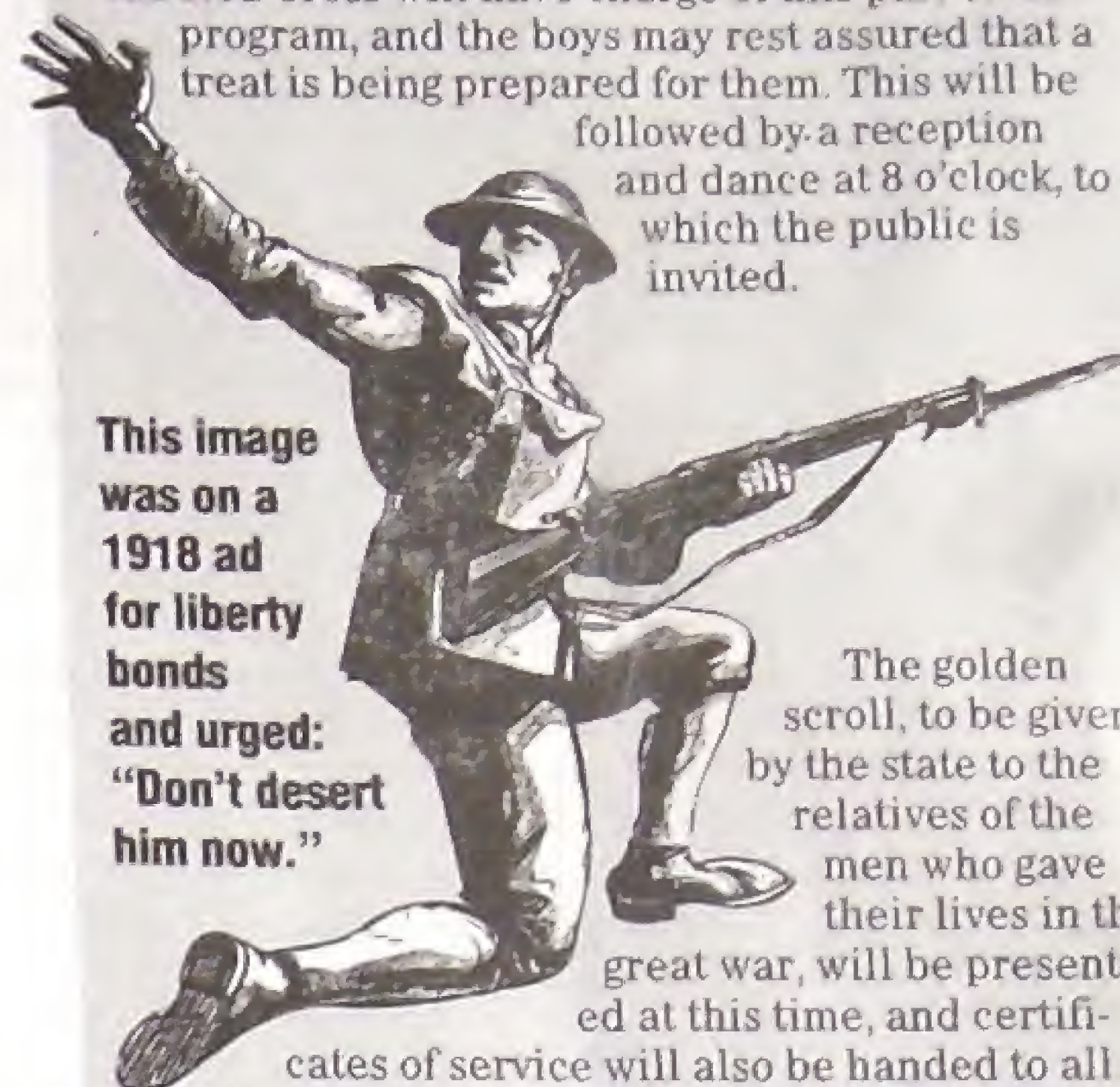
the emergency was over.

Beginning in 1917, the local chapter was led by Leila Lindley McKeivitt, wife of Frank B. McKeivitt Jr., who had come to Vacaville to assume management of the Pinkham and McKeivitt Fruit Co. Mrs. McKeivitt devoted the next 30 years to volunteering for the Red Cross.

## Servicemen, wives honored at event to welcome boys home

Messrs. George A. Arnold, T.L. Gates and Mrs. Joseph Stadtfeld, the committee having in charge the arrangements for the observance of "Welcome Home" day, have completed their plans and many willing workers are now engaged in looking after the details.

It has been decided to invite all servicemen and their wives to a banquet at Masonic hall at 6 o'clock on Tuesday evening, Nov. 11. The ladies of the Red Cross will have charge of this part of the program, and the boys may rest assured that a treat is being prepared for them. This will be followed by a reception and dance at 8 o'clock, to which the public is invited.



This image was on a 1918 ad for liberty bonds and urged: "Don't desert him now."

The golden scroll, to be given by the state to the relatives of the men who gave their lives in the great war, will be presented at this time, and certificates of service will also be handed to all discharged servicemen who present their certificates of discharge.

The following are the names of the soldiers and sailors of Solano county who were killed in the war and died from disease while they were in the service:

Killed in action: Ellis Christopher, Frank H. Rago and Earl Redding, all of Vacaville; John McFolk Collins, Sgt. Louis S. Devine, Guy Harmon, Maurice J. O'Connell, William D. O'Connell and Howard Smith, all of Vallejo; Clarence B. Frese and Henry F. Masfeldt, both of Dixon; William Larsen of Birds Landing; Sgt. Melvin K. Simmons of Fairfield.

Died of Wounds: Lt. Roy Bronson of Fairfield; Bror H. Akesson, and Frank J. Kroutch, both of Rio Vista; Edwin Avilla of Cordelia; Nicaloas Chirillicas, Corp. Fred Walter Cobb and Lt. John V. Fleming, all of Vallejo.

Died of wounds: Archie C. Bristow of Vacaville; William P. Mortensen of Suisun; Irving Downs of Rio Vista; Edward Hansen of Collinsville; Thomas Austin Baume and Lt. Willard Johnson both of Vallejo; Corp. Charles F. McCann of Dixon.

Camp deaths: Bryan P. Talbot and Peter Salaberry, both of Vacaville; Walter A. Hilden of Elmira; Sgt. E.W. Ratcliffe of Dixon; Lt. Albert Whelin of Rio Vista; James Pametta of Collinsville; Edward Bowman, Lt. William D. Hatch and William Symonds, all of Vallejo.

The Reporter  
Nov. 7, 1919

## Cigar store burglar enlists, avoids jail

Woods' cigar store was entered Friday night and \$96.65 stolen, part of it being taken from the cash register and part from the desk, where it had been hidden. On Saturday Carlisle Robinson was arrested by Constable Stadtfeld and charged with the crime, and later the money was found in his room. Monday he confessed and stated that he had entered the store by means of a key which fitted the lock. Judge Bristow fixed his bond at \$2,000, which was secured, and later, after a conference with Judge O'Donnell and District Attorney Lindauer, it was decided to suspend action and allow Carlisle an opportunity to enlist in the army. He accepted the offer and left on Tuesday for San Francisco to offer his services to Uncle Sam.

The Reporter  
Jan. 25, 1918

# Vacaville goes to war...

(Continued from Page 4)

to as much as an additional penny per 10-cent ticket to attend the theater, or as much as an additional 3 cents to send freight.

When the "boys in France" wrote home about a shortage of cigarettes "over there," The Reporter launched a campaign to collect tobacco. "Vacaville will support it with money and cigarettes," said the article; residents responded with tremendous enthusiasm.

In January 1918, residents were asked to give again, only this time it wasn't money but food. War rationing went into effect and it meant families had to abide by two wheatless, two porkless, and one meatless day a week. The Reporter helped the effort by publishing recipes for such things as wheatless biscuits, using toasted cornmeal as a substitute.

A patriotic rally was held in March 1918, during which people heard inspirational and patriotic speeches, and the call went out for more spare clothing and junk items to be donated.

W.H. Rutherford, stationed in France, wrote in a letter home that he was "in charge of the mess hall and feeding 1,600 men. At first it took us two hours and now just 14 minutes."

Even squirrels were under scrutiny during the war. Fearing their eating habits would destroy tons of food that otherwise would benefit soldiers overseas, state officials urged residents to hunt down as many squirrels as possible.

In April 1918, Solano County sent 49 more soldiers off to Camp Lewis for training, including Frank Rago, Walter Mills, Ben Newell and Harold G. Redman from Vacaville.

"Two Home Boys Wounded on the Front," was the headline on a May 17, 1918, article. Telegrams were delivered to Mrs. P. Damiano and Mrs. Josie Graham, notifying them their sons had been "slightly wounded."

Fruit growers received a welcome boost of help during the 1918 harvest season when the California Commission on Farm Labor organized a volunteer "Land Army" to help pick fruit. The first female volunteers arrived in late June and they stayed in a temporary "tent

## Keep Him From Your Home



You won't have to buy Liberty Bonds

The climax of a recent thrilling story of a German who masqueraded as a British officer in the exposure of the spy through his typically Teuton touch in kicking the face of a servant whom he had knocked down.

"You might have knocked him down and been British," said the man who turned him over to the firing squad. "But not the rest of it."

Myriad undisputable instances of Hun bestiality unrestrained show him to have exhausted all imaginable possibilities of brutishness in his treatment of his war victims.

Oversubscribe your quota of Fourth Liberty Loan bonds and help throw the German army back across the Rhine where its own people may have a taste of its "will to power."

An ad from The Reporter of Sept. 27, 1918 (above), urges readers buy war bonds. Another offers specials for "wheatless days."

way to Suisun.

The celebrations quickly turned to sadness, however, when it was learned that two Vacaville residents had lost their lives on the front. Frank H. Rago was killed on Sept. 29, 1918, and William Ellis Christopher died on Nov. 9, 1918, after "being gassed."

The area's first soldiers came home in late December 1918, including Cpl. Elmer King, who was "one of the first three to volunteer."

Vacaville's first American Legion outfit was established in late December 1919, and members named it the Rago-Christopher post. More than 25 ex-servicemen gathered at that first meeting.

## A Salute to Cooks throughout Time

We may live without poetry, music and art;  
We may live without conscience and live without heart;  
We may live without friends, we may live without books,  
But civilized man cannot live without cooks.

—Owen Meredith



MERCHANT & MAIN

349 Merchant St. • Downtown Vacaville • 446-0368

## Travelling back through time: 1910-1919



Joe Lopez, Jr.

Ler me tell you about Jose F. Lopez, Vacaville's original "Joe the Barber" and how he came to be. Jose's brother, Juan, came to Vacaville first in 1905 from Spain. He found work in the fruit orchards, the cement mine in Fairfield and eventually barbering in Vacaville. In 1920, Juan sent for his brothers Cecilio & Jose, and his sister Pilar. Upon arriving Jose worked with Juan barbering at a local hotel on Merchant St. He married Mary Garcia and raised three children, Jacoba, Joe, and Mary. Stay with us each month as I tell you the history of Barber Joe's.



**Barber Joe's**

Vacaville's Oldest Family Hair Salon  
Full service for men, women & children

444 Main St. • Downtown Vacaville • 707-448-6708



## Age of the auto ♦♦♦

(Continued from Page 3)

work of macadam highways as beautiful as the boulevards built by Napoleon."

Further, the rise of the automobile with its rubber tires "will paralyze the law-making bodies of this nation, for how could the legislatures run without the railroads to operate on?"

Another set of complex political problems soon appeared before local and state officials, changing the power structure in which the railroad was one supreme master.

Roads and sidewalks needed to be improved. Wooden bridges torn apart by auto traffic had to be replaced. Street and highway signs were needed to direct "autoists" from out of town who were unfamiliar with the local roads and landmarks. Unlike private railroads, these were public improvements and someone had to pay for them.

Vacaville wasn't enthusiastic about voting for bond measures for street improvements. In 1911, the voters rejected a measure of \$18,800 in street projects by a vote of 88 to 59.

In June 1915, voters finally gave the green light, of which there were none in Vacaville, to pave Main Street from Parker to Davis streets and the route of the state highway through town, costing an estimated \$12,000. But two-thirds of the voters couldn't be mustered for regrading and graveling of residential streets, costing \$18,000.

By 1917, a series of "good roads" meetings were being held with local and sometimes state representatives to find another way to pay for constructing and maintaining permanent highways "without having to pay county road tax of 40 cents on \$100 of assessed valuations and 10 cents sprinkling tax."

The Legislature was needed

to create a law that gave cities, counties or specially formed districts a method to issue bonds to pay for highways.

Success of highway construction was of much interest to the wide variety of businesses needed to serve the automobile.

In 1911, the Vacaville Garage Co. opened not only to service cars but to give owners a place to park their new possessions. Most houses were not able to accommodate the parking of a vehicle.

The garage also offered May Day transportation to Dixon in a seven-passenger, six-cylinder Hudson for \$1.50 round trip.

The first full-page advertisement in The Reporter appeared Jan. 5, 1912, purchased by the Vacaville Garage Co. and promoting the Mitchell-Lewis Motor Co. with its two- and five-passenger models.

The Associated Oil Co. chose Vacaville in 1915 to build its local refinery station to supply fuel to Winters, Dixon, Suisun, and Fairfield.

Two huge tanks holding 400 barrels for storage of gasoline and engine distillate were refilled by railroad tank cars. The fuel was distributed from the storage tanks to nearby towns by tank wagon and motor truck.

In 1918, the Auto Stage Line offered transportation in a nine-passenger 1915 model Peerless or Pierce Arrow between Sacramento and Vallejo with stops in Dixon, Vacaville, Fairfield, Suisun and Cordelia.

The combination of an affordable automobile and a new state highway through Vacaville set the town's destiny as a midpoint between Sacramento and San Francisco. Instead of 100 cars a day in 1915, Vacaville now boasts 125,000 cars traveling daily through its city limits on Interstate 80.



Motoring in the country became an increasingly popular activity. Frank Deakin is at the wheel of this 1912 E.M.F. built by Studebaker and parked near a fig tree near Steiger Hill. With him in the back seat are (from left) Mrs. Maggie Deakin, Mrs. Harold Deakin and Mable Deakin.

## 'The machine' makes impact ♦♦♦

(Continued from Page 3)

feared it was an attempted holdup. Finally, Will Bassford, in his buggy, recognized Blake and took him home.

Many an outing turned to tragedy due to the lack of road signs and lights. Moonlight was not enough to guide "automobilists" along what was still rough roads not meant to be traveled at night.

Florence Cheatham of Winters was the victim in November 1915 when the car in which six passengers were traveling rolled into Sweeny Creek and plunged 12 feet. The driver missed a turn — there were no signs — and in his attempt to turn the car around, turned too sharply, hit a gatepost and rolled into the creek.

Auto accidents made the front page of The Reporter regardless of the outcome.

And it must have come to the attention of lawyers that there was a case to be made for damages.

Hence, the first lawsuit outcome appeared on the front-page edition of the Nov. 17, 1916, Reporter. The Commary-Peterson Co. was found at fault for not properly marking an open culvert on the road from Suisun to Vacaville.

Paul Buckingham of Vacaville was awarded \$5,284.10 for injuries sustained as a result of the accident on Nov. 3, 1914. Also injured was Sterling Dobbins Jr. who was part of a well-known family of lawyers. Both men lay unconscious until picked up by passersby.

A Suisun garage was ordered to pay damages of \$1,650 in January 1916 to a 13-year-old Vacaville boy who was struck while bicycling.

If it was not motorists vs. train, bicyclists

vs. auto or driver vs. dirt pile, watch out for motorist vs. animal.

Pacific Gas & Electric Co. manager C.E. Sedgwick faced down "a couple fat porkers" while traveling on his motorcycle. According to the June 6, 1916, story, "two hogs were in the road as he approached at a fast clip. One of them saw or heard him coming and started for the fence, but the other deliberately ranged its fat proportions across the highway, and the rider had either two alternatives, take the ditch or bump the hog. (Sedgwick) charged into the bacon and his hogship was knocked several feet, Mr. Sedgwick going head-on over the wheel and taking a little flyers on his own hook. There was more squeal than hurt to the hog but the local manager of PG&E will ramble around in the little old Ford for some days to come."

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## THE LIFE AND TIMES OF JIM SHOCK

## Jim Shock Opens His Doors On Main Street!

James Wilson Shock

In 1976, Jim Shock opened Shock's Furniture Interiors on Main Street in Vacaville. It was an event that Shock's will never forget. The community turned out in record numbers for the grand opening. Sally Shock, Jim's wife, was a supportive member of the staff and shared the same vision Jim had for the future. The store grew on the community and the need to expand propelled Jim to open a 5,000 square foot store across from its Main Street location. Jim had a feel for new business trends prompting his purchase of high-end country oak furnishings and antique reproductions. Furniture sales soared in both stores due to the popularity of his new furniture line, the robust economy of the 80's and a very aggressive business plan set forth by Jim.

Times change and so did the furniture industry. A new trend was taking form with furniture manufacturers. They were turning to retailers to exclusively showcase their furniture line. Having traditionally carried a vast inventory of multi-line furniture, Jim decided to turn Shock's into a showcase gallery featuring the exclusive Thomasville furniture line. This required a new location and a larger store. Jim's real estate and negotiating savvy enabled him to find the perfect setting for his new line at a reasonable price, thus creating the opportunity to sell better furniture to the community at the lowest possible price! In 1989, Shock's opened up the Shock's Thomasville Gallery on East Monte Vista Avenue, occupying over 10,000 square feet of space. After many successful years, Thomasville changed its marketing strategy and formed free standing furniture stores to market their lines exclusively. This created tumultuous upheaval in the industry. Of the six privately owned furniture stores known as Calstores carrying the Thomasville line in Northern California, only two survived the change...and Shock's was one of them. Jim was forced to regroup and buy brand new furniture lines. With support of a loyal community and a strong customer base, Shock's rallied and grew again. Its professional decorators and staff created an atmosphere friendly to families, offering fantastic customer service and built a renewed relationship with the community.

Stacey Powers, Jim's youngest daughter, shared Jim's dream too. She was enjoying college and had lofty aspirations of a career in New York, but when needed, she came home to help out at the store. Well, she never left. She fell in love with the furniture business and adored working with her Dad. Both she and her Dad shared the same hopes and dreams for the store. It was to Jim's advantage to have Stacey as his right arm. She added a feminine touch when buying inventory and accessories. She truly enhanced the success of the store. After Jim's retirement in 1997, Stacey took full charge, operating Shock's on her own. She introduced the La-Z-Boy Home Furnishings line and Kinkaid solid wood furniture; furniture for every room in the home. Having a wonderful family of her own, Stacey fully appreciated how important it was to provide other families in the community the highest quality furniture at the lowest possible price.

Stacey is fully aware that in time the furniture industry will change again and new challenges await her. But her father taught her well and prepared her throughout her life to meet challenges. With the strength she gets from her family and the community she loves so dearly, Stacey will continue to build her father's legacy with determination and with pride. Jim's success as a furniture entrepreneur wasn't the only thing he did right. Ask anyone.

The new generation of Shock's is alive and well, so come visit them today at:



**Shock's** "The Home Comfort Store" and LA-Z-Boy Gallery

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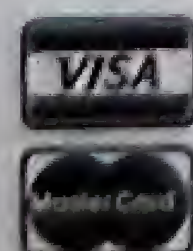
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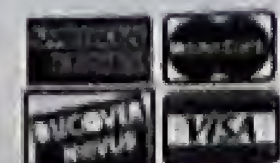
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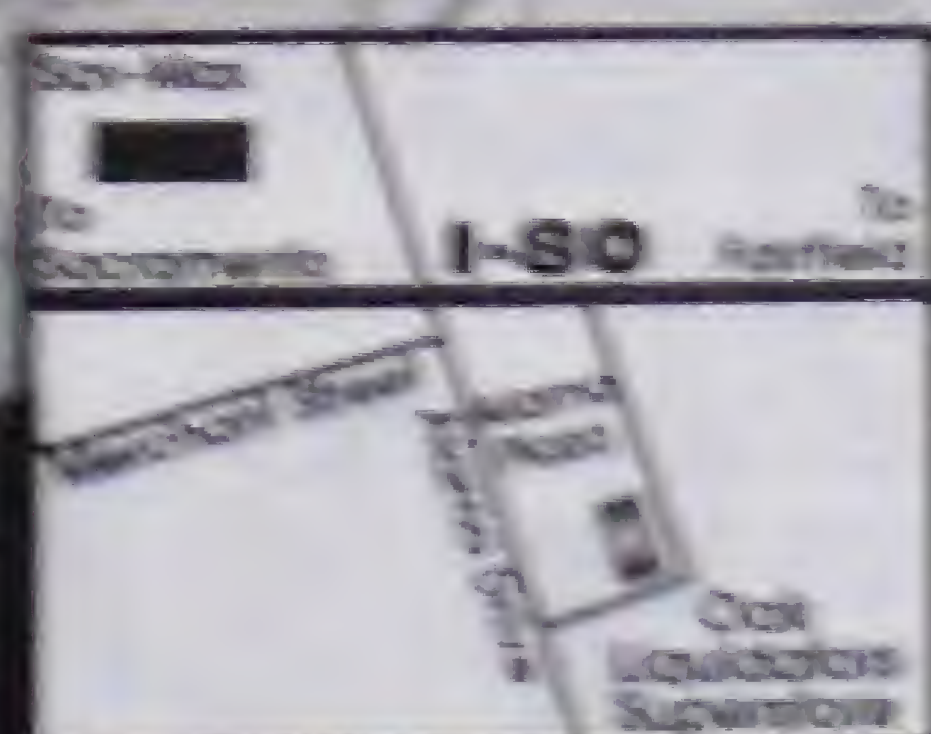
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# LOCAL ENTERPRISE EVOLVES

## Fruit still king in Vaca Valley; influence grows

One picture is worth a thousand words, then a whimsical postcard widely circulated in 1910 may sum up the fruit industry's importance to Vacaville in the second decade of the 20th century.

The card, with the word "Vacaville" stamped prominently on its front, shows a gigantic golden pear lying on its side and taking up an entire Southern Pacific rail car.

The raising, harvesting, packing, drying and shipping of cherries, pears, plums, prunes, apricots, peaches, quinces and figs continued to drive the area's economy from 1910 to 1919.

Packing sheds, fruit offices and railroad loading platforms lined East Main Street between Depot and Mason streets, and the goings-on of the industry were the subject of innumerable items in The Reporter.



The era saw the rise of the Pacific Fruit Exchange in 1911 and other alternatives to the California Fruit Distributors, whose internal politics were causing it to implode. And yet "cooperation" was touted as the watchword of the day, as growers, marketers and grocers banded together in various and often fluid configurations to ensure the best prices for themselves.

Vacaville growers were among the first to support the Solano County Farm Bureau, which in 1915 became the fifth bureau in the state. Its formation was a prerequisite to the appointment of a Cooper-



Workers gather on the loading platform of Pinkham & McKevitt Fruit Company in 1915 or slightly later. They are (from left) Marion Brazelton, Elmer Waggoner, a man named Schmicky, Lee Hardesty, Burt Wykoff, Henry Simpers and Frank McKevitt Jr., company manager. A 1917 ad (far left) suggests an explosive way for dealing with "a poor orchard."

Reporter file photo

ative Extension farm adviser, whose job was to ensure that the techniques developed at the University of California's Department of Agriculture found their way to farmers. Solano's first adviser, J.W. Mills, was appointed in 1915.

While Mills' salary was provided by the university, the county had to pay his expenses, about \$2,000 a year. Supervisors found the money by dismissing the county's horticulture commissioner, whose job had included inspecting fruit shipments to ensure they met standards which were imposed by various industry groups for most of the decade and, in 1917, were set by the state Legislature.

In 1916, Sacramento County fruit growers expressed "indignation" about the lack of inspections here, claiming that the shipment of nonstandard fruit hurt all California growers in the eastern markets. The Reporter's editor, however, noted that at least two rail cars containing Sacramento and Yuba fruit had been condemned by New York inspectors and asked, "Will the 'indignant' Sacramento county fruit growers please explain how that happened, while at the same time Solano County pears were selling at a good price?"

Other highlights of the era's fruit industry included:

- An "exceptional" demand for canned fruit in

1919, which caused 50 to 60 carloads of Vacaville fruit to be sent to canneries, "which is about 50 or 60 carloads more than is usually disposed of in this manner," according to The Reporter.

- The 1918 invasion of the Women's Land Army — students, teachers and business women from San Francisco who came to help with the wartime harvest.

- The May 1919 dance that marked the opening of the Frank H. Buck Co.'s new packing shed, an event attended by 500 people who partook of free ice cream and lemonade served "without limit" the entire evening.

— By Karen Nolan

## Teen years \*\*\*

(Continued from cover)

Prohibition finally did arrive, but Vacaville didn't wait for it. The township became one of the early "dry" districts when its people first voted in 1908 to close local saloon doors. Although the law was on the books, booze didn't exactly disappear from Vacaville life. Vacaville may have been dry, but Elmira wasn't. The result isn't difficult to figure out. A year after prohibition became the law of the land in 1909, voters made their stand for a dry town again, 176 to 139.

Besieged by citizen complaints and by vacaville Reporter editorials condemning runaway gambling, the town trustees decided in 1911 that the operation of slot machines, with a chance of winning either money or cigars, would thereafter be a misdemeanor. Anti-vice champion James D. McClain, who founded the city's first newspaper in 1883, died in Ukiah in 1910.

Little by little the city dealt with the wages of sin. But on a relative scale they were overshadowed by shining examples of civic achievement and a blossoming social life. After months of work, the Vacaville Saturday Club in 1912 opened the city's first public library at Dobbins and Main Streets. Librarian Hazel Duncan stood watch over some 500 volumes acquired mostly from the Ulatius Reading Club. In 1915, through a grant from the Carnegie Foundation, the city celebrated the opening of the Carnegie Library at the corner of Main and Parker streets. The building still stands in 1999 as Vacaville's Chamber of Commerce office.

A community fund drive launched in 1912 bore fruit in 1916 when the fire department made a down payment on its first gas-powered fire engine. Voters also passed a \$17,800 bond measure to allow construction of a septic tank and two concrete bridges, one on McClellan Street and the other at the end of Main Street. It still spans Ulatius Creek more than 70 years later.

Even while Vacaville was visiting and taking part in the 1915 Panama-Pacific Exposition in San Francisco, the city issued its first draft call for young volunteers to face The Hun in what history would come to know as The Great War. The size of the world was in direct proportion to how fast news traveled. Therefore: Big and slow, respectively. Lists of names of young Vacaville men considered eligible to go "over there" often ran the length of Reporter front pages. Meanwhile, a

local militia was formed to protect the home front while volunteers rallied 'round the flag. Not the least of these was the formation of a local chapter of the American Red Cross. Throughout the war years, and for years thereafter, it became both the conscience and the social life blood of the community. Its leader, and its indefatigable spirit, was Mrs. Leila McKevitt, whose husband owned and operated one of the city's largest fruit packing houses.

Fruit continued to be the backbone of Vacaville's economy. On the same day in April 1910 that the proposed First National Bank of Vacaville announced its initial investment of \$50,000 had been picked up in one week, 125 boxes of Tartarian cherries were shipped East by the Vacaville Fruit Co. The first box brought a price of \$50. In May of the same year, it took investors only a few hours to come up with one-third of the local subscription needed to finance the construction of a new hotel, one long needed to replace Hotel Raleigh, which burned in 1909. A Reporter editorial citing the need for accommodations was symbolic of the little town's emerging profile: "No other thing will give a town a blacker reputation throughout the state than lack of hotel accommodations... with better hotel facilities many automobile parties from the bay cities would visit Vacaville and leave considerable money." While here, they might even pick up a classy new 1911 Ford Runabout, offered by E.H. McMillan for \$320.

With financing in place, The Vacaville Hotel would be built, and the rest of the town would rise around it. The Great War ended. In 1919 the Red Cross took a lead role in a "Welcome Home" day to honor Vacaville's war survivors, and her dead. Two young men killed in action were Frank Rago and Ellis Christopher, whose names would be memorialized when the Rago-Christopher post of The American Legion was formed.

The decade wound down. The horrors of war were pushed off page one and out of the public consciousness by stories that ranged from tree-pruning tips to accounts of the Saturday Club's annual high jinks. Mary Pickford graced the screen and more Vacans than ever occupied the driver's seat. In addition to popular favorites, local car dealers touted the virtues of the likes of the Overland 4, the Chandler Six and the Hot Spot Chalmers. With their tops down and feeling the wind in their hair, the Vacans of 1919 roared off for the '20s.



Vacaville's first Boy Scout troop (left) on an outing. The Boy Scouts were brought to the city by the Rev. Arthur Fruhling, a Presbyterian pastor, shown below with his daughter Merriam in 1912.

Vacaville Museum

## Local view\*\*\*

(Continued from Page 3)

series of discussions on the hardships of a farm life for women, "who are making a plea not for less work, but for recognition of labors which have been too long taken as a matter of course," said The Reporter's notice.

Careful to avoid violating entrenched gender roles, the notice assured readers that the "work of the club is frankly unaggressive, and it does not wish to disturb tradition but it does want to live up to its motto of looking forward and not back."

Women's votes contributed to Vacaville's third election affirming its status as a dry town in 1914.

Having settled the question of alcohol sales, at least for the time being, Vacans turned to another vice: gambling.

Having banned slot machines in 1911, anti-gambling forces introduced an ordinance in 1915 to make all forms of wagering illegal.

Once the town trustees unanimously approved the ordinance, The Reporter quipped, "From now on devotees of the god of chance must 'ware of the marshal for under a strict interpretation there must be no more playing for 'anything of value' and it's presumed that even the cheapest cigar could be legally classified as a 'thing of value.'"

Entertainment — including movies, the circus, live theater and touring performers — linked Vacans to the outside world.

The Chautauqua, a traveling group of entertainers, received hype for weeks prior to its arrival. The troupe featured a variety of music, theater, speakers, concerts and dramatic lectures.



Vacaville Heritage Council

"What will the Boy Scouts of America do in case of war?" queries the writer before listing dozens of potential contributions, including displaying the U.S. flag, aiding firemen and police or hopping on their bicycles "to carry messages or supplies."

A large tent, equipped to hold 2,000 people, was erected on the high school grounds especially for the six-day occasion.

Movie listings for the town's two theaters — the Grand and the Central Theatre — made regular appearances on The Reporter's front page.

The Boy Scouts — established in Vacaville in 1914 by Presbyterian minister Arthur C. Fruhling — took on a unique role during the war.

Spurred by Fruhling's 1917 address titled, "The Boy," town leaders embraced a duty to assist boys in becoming men.

An April 1917 Reporter article addressed the "many ways in which (Boy Scouts) can render valuable aid in wartime."



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Walter P. Chrysler  
b. 1875 - d. 1940

## 1910 - 1919

In 1911 Walter Chrysler turned his fascination for automobiles into a career by joining the Buick Motor Company in Flynt, Michigan. As their first production manager, his starting salary was \$6,000 a year.

In 1916 Buick became General Motors' first automotive division. A year later Chrysler was named the division's president and general manager. He raised daily production from 20 to 550 vehicles, revolutionizing the automotive industry with innovative ideas, like the self starting engine.

In 1919, in addition to his responsibilities at Buick, Chrysler became General Motors' first vice president in charge of manufacturing. Financially independent at age 45, he retired from General Motors in 1920.

## 1913- Buick Model 30 Roadster.

One of the many Models of cars manufactured under Chrysler at Buick.

## 1914- As Production Manager, Chrysler made historical automobile changes.

- Moved the steering wheel from the right side to the left, a very radical change causing many protests.
- Electric lights became standard on all cars
- An Electric self starting engine
- Increased engine size to 6 cylinder, 48 horse power (Model B-55 selling for \$1,985, \$2,135 in the west)

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1910-1919

THE PAST CENTURY

# Motorized firefighting

"The engine threw a stream of water 10 feet over the flag pole which surmounts the town."

Excerpt from a 1916 Reporter article

## City buys its first fire truck

By Cynthia Roberts  
Special to The Reporter

Two streams of water soaring over Vacaville's grammar and high school building atop what would become Andrews Park must have been quite a sight.

After years of battling fires with less than effective equipment, Vacaville town trustees in 1916 finally paid the \$6,000 for a new Seagrave motorized fire engine. A company representative spent 10 days showing the Vacaville firefighting crew how to operate the new machine.

On one July day, Seagrave put the rig through the paces. First, a line was connected to a hydrant on the north side of Main Street, a half a block from the Ulatis Creek bridge. The hose line was then run up the hill to the high school.

"The engine threw a stream of water 10 feet over the flag pole which surmounts the town," said The Reporter in its July 21, 1916, account of the test. Then the line was changed into two for "two streams were thrown over each school building at the same time."



Vacaville Museum  
Vacaville's first gasoline-powered fire truck, a Seagrave, was purchased by town trustees for \$6,000 in 1916.

Ah, but wait, there was more to dazzle the locals. From a hydrant on what was then Sacramento Street east of the railroad tracks, 800 feet of hose was laid out. The hydrant was turned on and water streamed over W.W. Johnson's house.

It may be assumed that wherever W.W. Johnson's house was situated, it was a long haul for water to blast with any force.

There was also a chemical tank on the engine that was tested, as well as the suction hoses designed to pump water out of a well.

At last, Vacaville had an effective firefighting machine. It was the star of the Firemen's Carnival held for the first time in July. The four-day carnival began with a parade in which the new fire engine was followed by members of the depart-

ment in uniform.

By November of 1916, the town trustees finally passed an ordinance creating a fire department with a chief engineer position earning \$50 a year. The secretary treasurer would receive \$30 a year and the first engineer, the one in charge of the new fire engine, was paid \$120 a year.

At the suggestion of a firemen's committee, the town trustees were asked to forbid parking of automobiles near fire hydrants and tying up teams of horses in front of Town Hall. A telephone also needed to be installed where the fire engine was kept "so firemen can call up central and find out where the fire was when the telephone office turns in an alarm." Good idea. The town trustees agreed.

They couldn't agree to overlook

the indiscretion of firemen Henry Schielke and Vic Radcliffe. Both men were asked to resign in February 1917 as a result of "an unfortunate cruise taken Sunday around town with Vacaville's new \$6,000 motordriven fire engine."

Schielke, who had been in charge of the engine since its arrival, and Radcliffe were turning from Callen Street into College Street when the engine hit soft dirt on the roadside and "stuck fast." It was several hours before the heavy machine was extricated and safely locked up in the firehouse.

Schielke was not present at the town trustee meeting. Radcliffe offered his resignation but denied taking the engine out of the town limits.

## The Firemen's Carnival makes call on town

The Firemen's Carnival opened Tuesday evening with a good-sized crowd in attendance, and the A.H. Hendler Carnival Company, which furnished the attractions, is being generally complimented regarding the character of the features exhibited.

The company is headed by St. Leon, the man of mystery, who escapes from handcuffs, leg irons and straitjackets of all descriptions. He not only uses his own handcuffs, but permits police officers or marshals to use their own handcuffs. The most astonishing part of St. Leon's performance is that he makes his escape in full view of the audience. He gets out of a straitjacket in 54 seconds, which he claims is a world's record. He is ably assisted by La Petite Rosalie, the little lady who escapes from the sealed milk can filled with water. She accomplishes this feat in 7 1/2 seconds. Fifty dollars is offered to any person that discovers how the trick is done.

Other features which are entertaining and amusing large audiences are: Headlight, the wonderful horse; Wonderland; Professor Frick and his flea circus and the Submarine.

Then there is the Ferris wheel, which is always an attraction, and the merry-go-round, which fascinates the children. Both are practically new and absolutely safe.

The soda water, ice cream and peanuts concession has been turned over to the ladies of the Red Cross, and they are doing a rushing business.

All features and concessions will be kept open late tonight to permit those who desire to visit them after attending the Red Cross benefit at the Grand Theatre or the basketball games at the Annex. Saturday night will be the concluding night.

A visit to the carnival will make you forget your troubles, and you will at the same time be aiding the firemen to make additions to their equipment.

The Reporter  
Oct. 19, 1917

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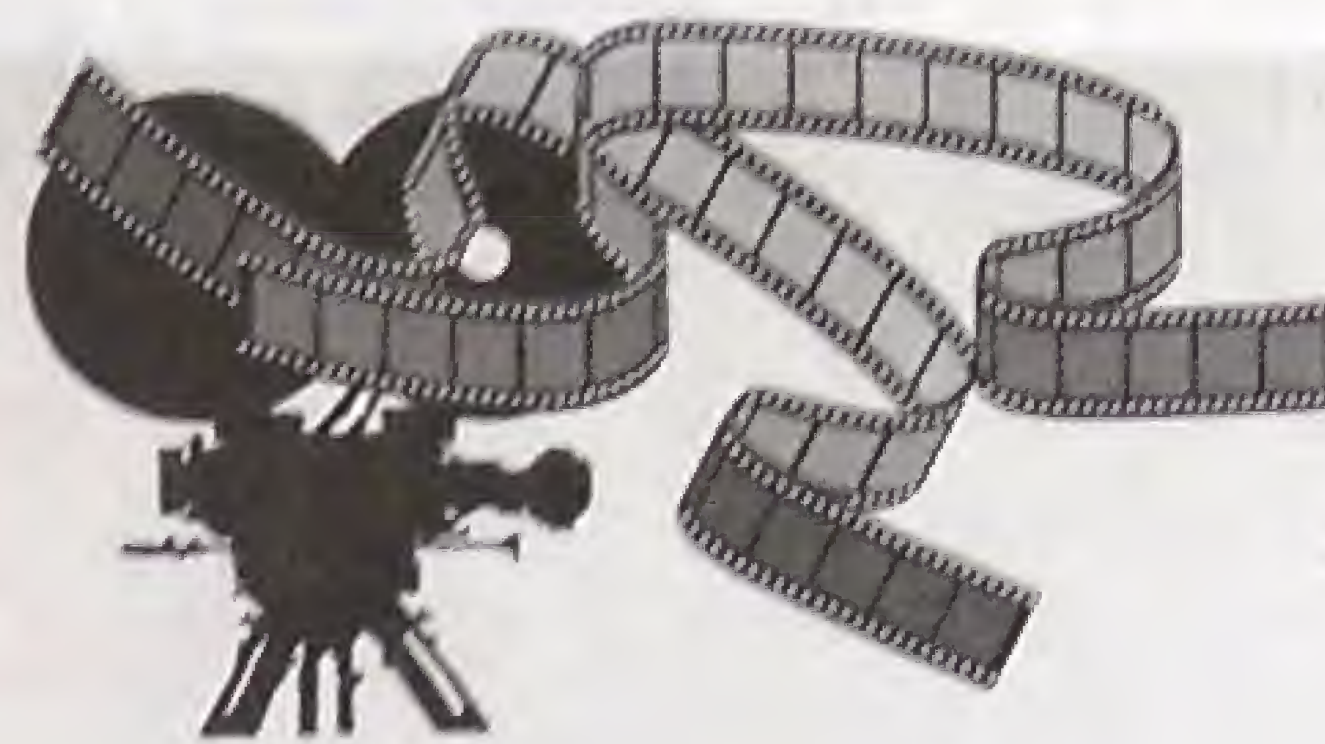
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1920-1929

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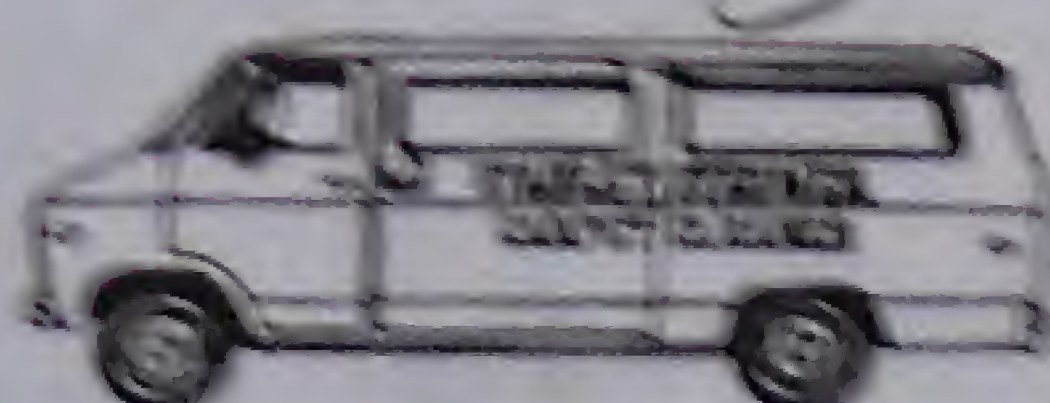
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1910-1919

THE PAST CENTURY

## Bible school push comes to Vacaville

The spirit of enlargement among the Bible schools of Vacaville has for some time been manifesting itself. Recent conferences among the workers of the different schools led to the announcement last Sunday of a meeting of officers and teachers at the Presbyterian church on Tuesday night of this week. A surprisingly large number responded to the call, and all were enthusiastic from start to finish in planning for a general campaign for Bible school enlargement.

Rev. A.A. Doak was elected as campaign director, and he is to have in his cabinet several representatives of each of the Sunday schools of Vacaville. This campaign committee will meet at the Presbyterian church tonight at 7:30 to lay out the work and select the necessary committees to execute the same.

The Bible study movement is attracting much attention in the east and the middle western states, where hundreds, and, in some instances, thousands, of people are being enlisted in Bible study for the first time in their lives. It will be a great thing if this region of earliest fruits is the first to inaugurate a Bible study movement in California. . . . Every wide-awake Bible school and church in the state will have their eyes upon Vacaville during the next few weeks and months, and will be asking "How did you do it?"

The Reporter  
Jan. 24, 1913



Frank H. Buck Sr. (seated at right), shown with family members, was a successful Vacaville businessman.

## Prominent businessman Buck dies

Frank H. Buck of Vacaville and San Francisco, known throughout the state as capitalist, fruit grower and oil magnate, and admired for his personal worth by all who were permitted a close acquaintance, died at 1 o'clock yesterday morning at the Fairmont Hotel, San Francisco. He had been in poor health for several years, as the result of heart trouble, and a cold which he contracted about 10 days ago developed into pneumonia, which was the immediate cause of death.

Frank H. Buck was born in Cortland County, N.Y., June 8, 1859, and was the son of Leonard W. and Anna (Bellows) Buck. In childhood he was taken by his parents to Clinton, Iowa, where he was educated, attending the public schools and Clinton Academy. He came to this state with his parents in 1875. His father soon after his arrival purchased what was formerly known as the Weldon ranch, in Vaca Valley. This is the property now occupied by Fred M. Buck. Here, under the capable supervision of his father, he entered upon a careful study of horticulture, and before he had attained his majority, had gained a thorough understanding of the business.

standing of the business.

In 1881 he became a member of the firm of L.W. & F.H. Buck, and succeeded his father in the conduct of its affairs upon the death of the latter in 1895. In 1902, the business was incorporated under the name of the Frank H. Buck Co., with a capital stock of \$100,000, he becoming president of the corporation.

Individually Mr. Buck owned about 1,400 acres of land devoted to fruit and vineyards, about half of which is located in Solano County and the balance in the San Joaquin Valley.

His fruit interests, while extensive, were only a small part of his business activities, and at the time of his death he was vice president and a director of the Associated Oil Co., of which he was one of the organizers, a director in the Amalgamated-Associated Pipe Line, Bakersfield Iron Works, Belridge Oil Co., Sterling Oil and Development Co., West Coast Oil Co., Rodeo Land and Water Co. and the Booth-Kelly Lumber Co. of Eugene, Ore.

The Reporter  
March 10, 1916

## Kit Carson show comes to town

What is the use of being blue and grouchy when you have in store one of the biggest days ever experienced in Vacaville? The world famous Kit Carson's Buffalo Ranch Wild West is coming for two performances on Saturday, Aug. 24, and isn't that enough to make you brighten up and feel better?

So begin right now making your arrangements to put in one glorious time and forget your troubles. No matter what is bothering you this peer of all American amusement enterprises will make a new person of you in two hours. Treatment guaranteed.

You will awaken on the morning of Saturday and find that the Big Wild West Show has arrived on their own special trains of double-length cars and are preparing everything for your pleasure.

Then glance at a few of the features of this noted attraction. Whoever heard of a complete menagerie of trained wild animals with a frontier show? They've got them and will show you something new in animal acts beyond belief, death-defying acts with the elephants, camels and on down to the smaller animals.

Then there are the cowboys, cowgirls, Cossacks from Russia, vaqueros from Mexico, the famous Martinez family of rough riders from the plains of Patagonia in South America and other wild west riders and fancy ropers.

But wait, one thing we forgot to mention. How about that two-mile parade of gold and glitter? Won't that rub off a little of the blue and make you feel younger when you elbow your way through the crowd in your effort to "git a front place"? Sure it will. You will be feeling young and frisky before you ever reach the show grounds and during the performance the dozen clowns will complete the job of making a new person of you.

So forget business and household cares on Saturday and have one more good time. Lock up the old store, shut up the house, grab the kiddies and come on to the show grounds.

The Reporter  
Aug. 23, 1912

## A PART OF HISTORY

Ron in his '55 Chevy Bel Air car.

### "Always A Car Buff"

Ron Wilson, co-owner of Import Service Center, worked at the 76 gas station on Cutting Blvd., in Richmond. At 16 he performed lube, oil change & gas attendant duties. With his first job he paid his father back for the loan on his car.

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## One death here from influenza

But one death due to Spanish influenza has so far occurred in Vacaville or vicinity, George Wada, a Japanese, having died Tuesday night. The following additional cases however, have been reported:

Mr. and Mrs. C.A. Stevenson and grandson.

Gregory, an employee of McKinley's garage.

Japanese woman at the Buddhist mission.

Mrs. W.A. Perdue, Elmira M.C. Hurt

Joe Damiano

Miss Sallie Long

Howard Rogers Jr.

P. Wade and family

Earl Miller

Mrs. A. Furio

Mrs. D. O'Neill

Mrs. K. Nakamura

Mrs. I. Nakamura

Many of these cases were contracted while visiting in San Francisco or Oakland.

### Precautions Being Taken

Following instructions from the state board of health, Health Officer Hughes ordered the Grand Theatre closed Saturday, and it will remain closed until the epidemic is over. The Presbyterian Church, without waiting for action to be taken, voluntarily announced that it would discontinue services for the present, commencing last Sunday and the Christian Church is also closed until all danger is over.

On Tuesday evening the boards of trustees of the high and grammar schools met and decided to close the schools immediately; so when the pupils arrived at school Wednesday morning they were informed of the action taken and instructed to return home.

The Reporter  
Oct. 25, 1918

## Curing what ails you



To prevent disease—  
resist disease germs



This ad in the Nov. 14, 1913, edition of The Reporter promises Rexall's Olive Oil Emulsion is "a real nerve-food tonic" and "pleasant to take." The Reid Drug Co. ad for the elixir also says that it "strengthens you, puts snap and ginger and vitality into your system. It makes you feel better and stronger. It improves your digestion and your bowel action."

SMALLPOX is prevented by vaccination — the injection of vaccine. DIPHTHERIA is prevented by the injection of anti-toxin. These enable the body to produce substances which prevent the growth of smallpox and diphtheria germs in the blood. There are many other diseases, nearly, if not quite as dangerous, and far more common — typhoid fever, the grippe, bronchitis, pneumonia, catarrh, rheumatism, and a score of others — that can be prevented less painfully and more easily by making the body strong to resist germ infection.

**Rexall**  
TRADE MARK

## Olive Oil Emulsion (With Hypophosphites)

Is designed for the prevention as well as the relief of disease — by enabling the body to overcome the germs. It, at the same time, strengthens and tones the nerves, nourishes the blood, puts the entire system into a proper healthy condition to combat and successfully resist disease.

Every person not in perfect health has incipient germs of some distressing ailment in his or her system.

Cold weather, over-work, excesses of any kind, are liable to bring about just the conditions under which these latent disease germs will get the upper hand, and put you on your back — "down sick."

You who are run-down, tired-out, nervous — don't feel good —

You who, though not sick enough to give up, still

Take home a bottle of Rexall Olive Oil Emulsion today, and use it as a means to get well and keep well.

Rexall Olive Oil Emulsion is a real nerve-food tonic.

In this it is different from most other so-called "tonics" which either have no food value and do nothing more than temporarily stimulate you, leaving you in a worse condition than before, or, having food value, still

Sold in this community only at

The Rexall Store

are so unpleasant to take that many people can't keep them down.

Rexall Olive Oil Emulsion is pleasant to take. The Hypophosphites it contains tone the nerves. The pure Olive Oil nourishes both nerves and blood.

Rexall Olive Oil Emulsion strengthens you, puts snap and ginger and vitality into your system. It makes you feel better and stronger. It improves your digestion and your bowel action.

It contains no alcohol nor any dangerous or habit forming drugs.

It is guaranteed to be just as represented above — to do all that is claimed above — to satisfy you in every way, or your money back without quibble or question.

Enough for full two weeks' treatment, \$1.00.

Sold only at The Rexall Stores — the World's greatest Drug Stores — and always with a full guarantee of complete satisfaction, or your money back.

**Reid Drug Co.**  
VACAVILLE CAL.

## Candidate gives 'square deal' pledge in town trustee race

To the citizens of Vacaville — Gentlemen: Having consented to be a candidate for the office of town trustee, I desire to define my position.

I have been informed that it has been stated that I was a candidate of the liquor interests, a saloon candidate; that I was in favor of running a wide open town, and, per contra, that I intended to maintain the present town government regardless of any action that the citizens might take in the matter; also that I was a corporation candidate who would favor public utility corporations, in fact, I have heard all sorts of reports, none of which could be ordinarily construed as being very complimentary.

Now, I wish to state most emphatically, that I am neither a "wet" nor a "dry" candidate, nor shall I serve any corporation. What I wish to have understood is, that if elected, the wishes of my fellow townsmen shall determine my action in any and all matters concerning the town government.

There is but one policy that is right — a square deal for everybody. This election promises to be a bitter fight, replete with personalities; but, having consented to run, I shall do so upon the proposition of the "square deal" and shall ask your support upon that platform and no other.

Very respectfully  
F.B. McKevitt, Jr.

The Reporter  
March 4, 1910

## Politician vows to do good for taxpayers

The report that I am pledged to certain saloon-keepers in the town of Dixon, or that I have caused money to be spent by any saloon-keeper in Solano county during my campaign, I hereby brand as a falsehood of the worst character. I never have been, am not now and never will be controlled by any saloon or saloon-keeper.

My administration as supervisor of the Fourth district will be for the good of the taxpayers of the district.

George P. Akerly

The Reporter  
Aug. 21, 1914

## Back in 1910...



195 N. First Street, Dixon



Henry R. Timm  
President, 1910-1917

A group of Dixon residents believed they weren't

getting the kind of banking services they needed and decided to do something about it. In the spirit of the independent, do-it-yourself tradition, 25 men and women met at the Dixon Alfalfa Land Company on January 20<sup>th</sup> to organize their bank. On January 31<sup>st</sup>, Henry R. Timm of Dixon was elected the first president. On February 1, 1910, the Bank opened for business in a remodeled former ice cream parlor with a staff of two. In May of 1911, the Bank moved from the former ice cream parlor into new quarters where the Bank's corporate offices and main branch are still located today.



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## Meet Grandma

Ellyn was born on November 17, 1910 in St. Louis, Missouri. She has three sisters and one brother.

In 1925 at the age of 15 Ellyn worked in a sewing factory for twelve years on a two needle sewing machine and was paid by piece work. Ellyn worked with her grandmother first and then with her mother.

Ellyn married in 1935. She had three sons. In 1938 her first son, Jim was born followed by Ron in 1940 and Terry in 1942.

Ellyn moved to Southern California in 1945, she arrived in Los Angeles the day World War II ended.

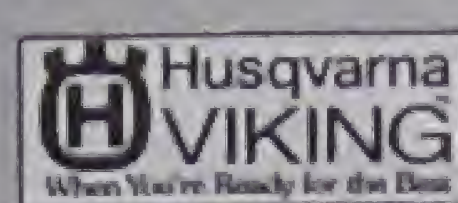
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1910-1919

THE PAST CENTURY

# Prosperity marks business district

By Karen Nolan  
Special to The Reporter

**W**ell before the turn of the 20th century, Vacaville boasted a prosperous and varied business district. That boast only grew between 1910 and 1919.

Business news carried by The Reporter then included regular items about newcomers who eagerly opened shops to fill gaps in service or who replaced retiring proprietors.

Aside from these comings and goings, only one other theme came up throughout the decade: The need to replace the Hotel Raleigh, which had burned down in 1909.

"New hotel seems assured by amount of stock subscribed," declared a Reporter headline in 1910. "Vacaville's hotel needs: A plan to supply them is suggested," the paper reported four years later. "Once more our hopes are raised: We may have a hotel within six months," it said in 1917.

By the end of 1919, a site had been secured and a committee was well on its way to issuing \$40,000 worth of stock needed to complete the project. Still, the decade closed with no "suitable" public accommodations in town.

Not that there were no hotels here. The Japanese community — which operated a thriving business district on the west side of Dobbins Street, across from an equally thriving Chinese district — had one: the Nippon Hotel, whose sole reference in the newspaper came in 1913, the week after it burned down, along with the Soyo Co. store and the Hamada Restaurant.

So why — in a decade that saw an increase in traffic, thanks to the rise of the automobile and the newly built state highway through town — did it take so long to replace the Hotel Raleigh? The short answer is liquor and war.

Innkeepers repeatedly said that a hotel without a saloon would never be



Vacaville's Japanese business district stretched for two blocks along Kendal and Dobbins streets.

profitable, yet the residents of Vacaville declined to lift the ban on alcohol sales they had fought hard to impose in the previous decade. An effort to secure a "table license," which would permit alcohol to be served with meals, also was thwarted.

By 1918, the year before Prohibition, a community corporation had paid for hotel property on Merchant Street, where the state highway ran, but investors were urged to buy war bonds instead of hotel shares.

Another business success came in 1913, when the Vacaville Chamber of Commerce was organized to "advance the general interests of the town of Vacaville and vicinity, and to foster a friendly feeling and spirit of cooperation and loyalty among the people."

Thirty people joined it at the first meeting, dues were set at 50 cents a month, and George P. Akerly, a grocery proprietor since 1900, was unanimously elected president. "Vacaville has reached a turning point in its his-

tory, and the pessimist, the slurrian and the knocker will no longer find here a congenial place of residence," the newspaper opined.

Unfortunately, the chamber was short-lived, fading away by the end of the decade.

The year before the chamber was formed, the paper announced that 17 businesses had pledged to stay closed all day on Sundays, "in order to be in line with the tendency of the times and give themselves and their employees one full day of rest in every seven." Pointing out that at least two of the stores had long quit the practice of opening for a half-day on Sundays, which it called a "relic of the pioneer days," the newspaper noted that since the post office had forbidden Sunday mail distribution, "there has been a noticeable falling off in the number of people coming into town on that day."

Other changes:

• The formation of the First National Bank of Vacaville and its affiliate,

the Vacaville Savings Bank, in 1910.

• The Mount Diablo Realty Co.'s development of the Buck Bungalow Addition, a housing project built mostly between 1913 and 1917 on 22 lots along Kentucky, Peach, Magnolia and Luzena streets, the former site of a 20-acre orchard.

• The 1919 sale of the Chandler Lumber and Supply Co., a Vacaville operation since 1924, to the Diamond Match Co.

• The retirements of W.E. Atkinson, who sold his 18-year-old City Meat Market in 1912, and E.C. Crystal, who owned the largest store in town when he called it quits in 1917 after 32 years in business. Hundreds turned up at the dry goods store for the retirement sale, which was temporarily halted after two days when Rio Vista merchant Walter Schaefer bought the store and turned over its management to his brother, R. Schaefer, who already was operating a clothing shop in Vacaville.

## Deportation makes man blue

**I**migrant Station, Angel Island, Calif., April 23, 1916 — Editor Reporter: No doubt you will be surprised to hear from me at this place. I have been here for over three months. My enemies had me arrested and the government at Washington is sending me back to Japan. I leave tomorrow on the steamship Shinyo Maru, and feel pretty bad, after 31 years continuous residence in this country. I do not feel so bad for myself, but more for my wife, who is sick at present and alone in the world.

I hope you will do me the favor of thanking all my friends through your columns for their kindness to me while living in Vacaville, covering a period of 14 years.

Had I money I could have hired an attorney and gotten affidavits as to my character, but had no money, so made but little defense.

I will be lost in Japan. Outside of speaking the language I will be as strange there as you gentlemen would be.

I will appreciate you giving a small space in The Reporter thanking and bidding good-bye to my many friends.

I did think I might get a chance to see you all, and be permitted to go down for at least my baggage, for I have but the one change of clothes; but no, I could not go. My wife will send me my effects today.

Goodbye and hoping I will see you both someday, and also my many friends.

I cannot complain of the local officers' treatment of me here, but I do think a great injustice has been done me by the head office in Washington, for no more patriotic American, or a lover of this country and her institutions, ever lived than I.

I feel very blue today, on the eve of my departure, sailing tomorrow, the 22d inst., at 1 p.m. from pier 34 steamship Shinyo Maru. Goodbye.

George Sato  
Japanese from Vacaville

The Reporter  
May 12, 1916

## A PART OF HISTORY



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# A new Home for BOOKS

## Five-year campaign brings Carnegie Library to Vacaville

By Barbara Smith  
Special to the Reporter

**S**ealed up in a cornerstone of the Carnegie library building in downtown Vacaville is an account of how the town citizens managed to bring the magnificent gem here.

The doors to the brand-new public library at 300 Main St. opened in July 1915. The ladies of Vacaville, particularly members of the Saturday Club, were the driving force behind a five-year effort to bring books to Vacaville.

The campaign began in 1910 when the Ulatis Book Club, frustrated over an apparent lack of community interest and \$25 in debt, handed its 450 volumes over to the Saturday Club.

Led by Katherine Steiger, the Saturday Club formed a library committee, headed by Mrs. Charles Riechers. It moved the books to the grammar school, where they were relabeled "Vacaville Public Library."

By February 1911, the Saturday Club had added 12 books to the collection from their own homes, paid the \$25 debt they had assumed from the Ulatis Book Club, and purchased shelving for the grammar school. The library hours were 2:15 to 3:15 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

In September of that year, the club began making plans for a permanent library. The Reporter published a request for financial contributions from the community. Pledge cards were mailed and the community responded.

In January 1912, the Saturday Club rented the "old barber shop" on the corner of Main and Dobbins streets to serve as Vacaville's first public library and reading room. Community interest grew and donations were made to prepare the shop to serve as a library. Donations included \$8.50 cash, a picture, screen, broom, dustpan and brush. Miss Hazel Duncan was appointed librarian, and library hours were from 2 to 6 p.m. and from 7 to 9 p.m.

As the number of visitors to the little library grew, so did the need for more books and, finally, larger quarters. The Saturday Club began new fund-raising efforts, beginning with a "Book Social" at the Opera House. Entertainment was provided and admittance to the party was one book.

By May 1912, the librarian reported 523 visits to the library during one month, and 793 books on the shelves. In September, the Saturday Club decided to take steps to secure permanent library quarters.

Mrs. J.M. Miller began cir-

culating a petition to be presented to the county Board of Supervisors establishing a library district under the jurisdiction of the Vacaville Union High School District. The required number of signatures was obtained and, in November, supervisors called an election. Voters approved and a tax was levied to maintain a library.

An official library board of trustees was formed, as required by law. But the management of the library and fund-raising efforts remained with the Saturday Club. By September 1913, the library board had requested a grant from the Andrew Carnegie Corporation. One of the terms for obtaining the grant was that the town provide the building site. The search for a site began.

In January 1914, news was received from the Carnegie Corporation that "... the application had been favorably considered and Mr. Carnegie was willing to furnish \$12,500 for a library building. ..." While the citizens of Vacaville were thrilled with the news, the debate over where the library would be located was heating up.

Some wanted the new library to be located on the high school grounds. Others, including the Saturday Club members, believed it would best serve the community in the center of town.



George Sharpe built the new library.

On Feb. 18, 1914, a special meeting was held at the Chamber of Commerce. The Saturday Club turned out in force. Mrs. C.G. Robinson strongly urged the library site be in a central area, stating, "A fine public library located near the business section would not

only enhance the beauty and property value, but act as an incentive to the further building of good business blocks, better street lighting and other civic improvements."

Katherine Steiger presented a petition signed by citizens desiring a site in the business district. The petitioners won with a vote of 3 to 1.

In July 1914, a library site was purchased by the library trustees. It was owned by T.W. Wilson and located at the corner of Main and Parker streets, where the "hitching racks are." The cost was \$3,000.

In December, the contract to build the library was awarded to prominent contractor George H. Sharpe, who began construction immediately. The excitement over the new library was evident when The Reporter published a letter from Sharpe, in which he complained of the constant visitors to the site disturbing his employees, whom he paid between \$2.50 and \$7 per eight-hour day.

The new Carnegie library opened its doors on July 17, 1915. Built of reinforced concrete, the building boasted a basement, two fireplaces, a "hot-air furnace," and — most important — the room to accommodate 6,000 books. Total cost, including architect's fees, grading, lawn, trees, fountain and concrete walks was \$12,465.

During the next two years, donations and purchases for the Vacaville Public Library continued. The first thing bought was a new International Encyclopedia. British Poets of the 19th century; works by the Brontës; Tennyson; Shakespeare, and Browning followed. All volumes of Tolstoy's "War and Peace" were added in August 1918.

Today, the Carnegie library building, still a source of Vacaville's pride, houses the office of the Vacaville Chamber of Commerce. The public library was first moved to Merchant Street then to the Ulatis Cultural Center.

City residents gather in July 1915 (left) for the opening of the Carnegie Library. The building, constructed by prominent local builder George Sharpe, is now home of the Chamber of Commerce (below left).



Reporter file photos



## Mysterious fire destroys store

**T**he general merchandise store on Joe Ferrozzano's place, about five miles north of town, was destroyed by fire, evidently of an incendiary origin, at 8:30 Tuesday evening. The store had been closed for the night and there was no fire or light of any kind on the premises.

The stock was owned by Mrs. Theresa Cardinale, niece of Ferrozzano, and the building stood in the name of Mrs. Theresa Ferrozzano. There was \$700 insurance on the building and \$3,500 on the stock. Building and stock were a total loss.

An additional mystery surrounds the affair, owing to the following letter which was found in M. Polzoni's letter box on Monday afternoon of last week:

Mr. M. Polzoni: I will offer a big price for little night work to damage a few barns, fence posts, store, etc. Your work will be Barrett's barn, burn all F. McKeovitt shed at P. Dito, Polito's fence posts, Ferrozzano's store at road. All done one night. Use gasoline. Start well Thursday night at 10 o'clock. Say nothing to no one or we will kill you, as we are the Hiken. Beware of your life if not done this week. If night work done you will get 100 dollars from the HIKEN.

Throw match or cigar in all dry grass. Burn the letter up quick.

The letter had not come through the mail, but had been dropped in the box by unknown parties. On receiving the message Mr. Polzoni turned it over to Constable Stadfeld, and those whose notified. Watch was kept for several nights until after the time mentioned (Thursday of last week). No clue to the affair has yet been obtained.

The Reporter  
Oct. 20, 1916

## Royal treatment



**THE  
ROYAL  
WORCESTER  
CORSETS**

Gives the wearer an individual air and style. Destined to be extremely popular because of its wonderful fitting qualities, handsome appearance and new style features.

Seldom does one see at the price that will equal the Royal Worcester Corset in value and fit.

PRICES 50c to \$3.00

**Arnold's**  
Department Store  
ASK FOR COUPONS

It's not Victoria's Secret, but the ad in the June 9, 1916, edition of The Reporter seems a tad provocative for the times. The Arnold's Department Store ad is for The Royal Worcester Corsets that sell for 50 cents to \$3.

## Crystal's offers prizes

**W**ouldn't you like a player piano, a Grafonola, a watch or a set of silverware, particularly if it didn't cost you anything? Of course you would; and therefore we believe you will be interested in the profit-sharing prize campaign which has just been inaugurated at Crystal's.

No lucky number will win these prizes — simply sign a nomination blank and have a particular number assigned to you, and then boost for your number among your relatives, friends and acquaintances. Have them patronize the above-named place of business and save their profit-sharing prize certificates for you. The rules

are simple. The opportunity costs you nothing.

Nomination blanks can be obtained at the store, and upon receipt of your nomination, you will have a particular number assigned to you. The published bulletins of all contestants, which will be made weekly, will be by number only, thus avoiding any publicity to your name.

The campaign is now open, and will continue until March 15, 1916.

The list of prizes consists of a \$750 player piano, a \$200 Grafonola, a \$20 lady's watch, a \$20 gentleman's watch and a set of silverware worth \$16.95.

The Reporter  
Sept. 17, 1915

## Battle cry against squirrels

**T**he unanimity with which the whole country went to work planning for the prosecution of the war has inspired us along other lines and today from one end of California to the other the cry is heard "Kill the squirrel." The grain grower, livestock feeder, fruit grower, in fact every producing activity was awakened to the awful loss which has been visited upon us by the ground squirrel. Here is a circular being distributed by

the Sperry Flour Company. The Sperry People will pay higher prices for wheat than will the squirrels.

Now is the time to go after the squirrels!

Do the job up thoroughly. If your wheat fields are infested with squirrels get rid of them without delay. It will cost only a few cents an acre, but you can afford to spend a dollar an acre if necessary.

The Reporter  
Feb. 28, 1919



# 1910-1914

M I L L E N N I U M N O T E B O O K

## BIRTHS

Jacques Cousteau, oceanographer, 6/11/10  
 Eero Saarinen, architect, 8/20/10  
 Mother Teresa, humanitarian, 8/27/10  
 Ronald Reagan, actor and president, 2/6/11  
 Jean Harlow, actress, 3/3/11  
 Thomas Lanier "Tennessee" Williams, playwright, 3/26/11

Hubert H. Humphrey, politician, 5/27/11  
 Lucille Ball, comedian, 8/20/11  
 Jackson Pollock, artist, 1/28/12  
 Perry Como, singer, 5/18/12  
 Ben Hogan, golfer, 8/13/12  
 Julia Child, chef, 8/15/12  
 Gene Kelly, entertainer, 8/23/12  
 Roy Rogers, cowboy star, 11/21/12  
 Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill Jr., Speaker of the House, 12/9/12  
 Lady Bird Johnson, first lady, 12/22/12  
 Richard M. Nixon, president, 1/9/13  
 Danny Kaye, entertainer, 1/18/13  
 Lionel Hampton, jazz musician, 4/12/13  
 Vince Lombardi, football coach, 6/11/13  
 Gerald Ford, president, 7/14/13  
 Jesse Owens, track athlete, 9/12/13  
 Burt Lancaster, actor, 11/12/13  
 William S. Burroughs, novelist, 2/5/14  
 Gen. William C. Westmoreland, 3/26/14  
 Alec Guinness, actor, 4/2/14  
 Joe Louis, boxer, 5/13/14  
 Thor Heyerdahl, explorer, 10/6/14  
 Dr. Jonas Salk, polio vaccine developer, 10/28/14  
 Joe DiMaggio, baseball player, 11/25/14

## PASSAGES

## Mark Twain

On April 21, 1910, the immensely popular Samuel Langhorne Clemens, better known as Mark Twain, dies at age 74 in Danbury, Conn. Twain's most famous work is "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer" (1876).


## Leo Tolstoy

Leo Tolstoy, author of "War and Peace," has long been shunned by the Russian government but revered by the common folk. He dies on Nov. 20, 1910 at age 82.

## PRODUCTS

## Mr. Bean's leaky boots

Leon Leonwood Bean, a Maine merchant known as "L.L.," gets tired of coming home from tramps in the woods with wet feet because his heavy leather boots leak. So in 1912, he invents a boot that combines a light-weight leather top with a waterproof bottom. He sells 100 pairs to fellow sportsmen through the mail. But 90 pairs are returned because the stitching gives way. True to his word, he refunds his customers' money and starts over with an improved boot. The Maine Hunting Boot eventually becomes a staple of a mail-order sporting goods empire called L.L. Bean.

 But 90 pairs are returned because the stitching gives way. True to his word, he refunds his customers' money and starts over with an improved boot. The Maine Hunting Boot eventually becomes a staple of a mail-order sporting goods empire called L.L. Bean.

## 'Old Joe' Camel

Camel cigarettes are introduced by the R.J. Reynolds Co. in 1913. The package, which sells for a dime, features an image of a camel. Lithographers base the picture on a photograph that a company photographer shot of a Barnum & Bailey circus camel named Old Joe. The shot was taken with the animal in an unusual pose, with its nose held high, because Old Joe's trainer had just whacked him on the nose for misbehaving.



## FILM

## The little tramp

Charlie Chaplin introduces his "little tramp" character to the world in 1914 in the one-reel Mack Sennett film, "Kid Auto Races at Venice." The character, an immediate hit, will be the protagonist in several of Chaplin's later full-length classics.

## 1910

■ **Jan. 8:** French aviator Hubert Latham sets a world altitude record by flying his monoplane to a height of more than 3,300 feet at Bouy, France.

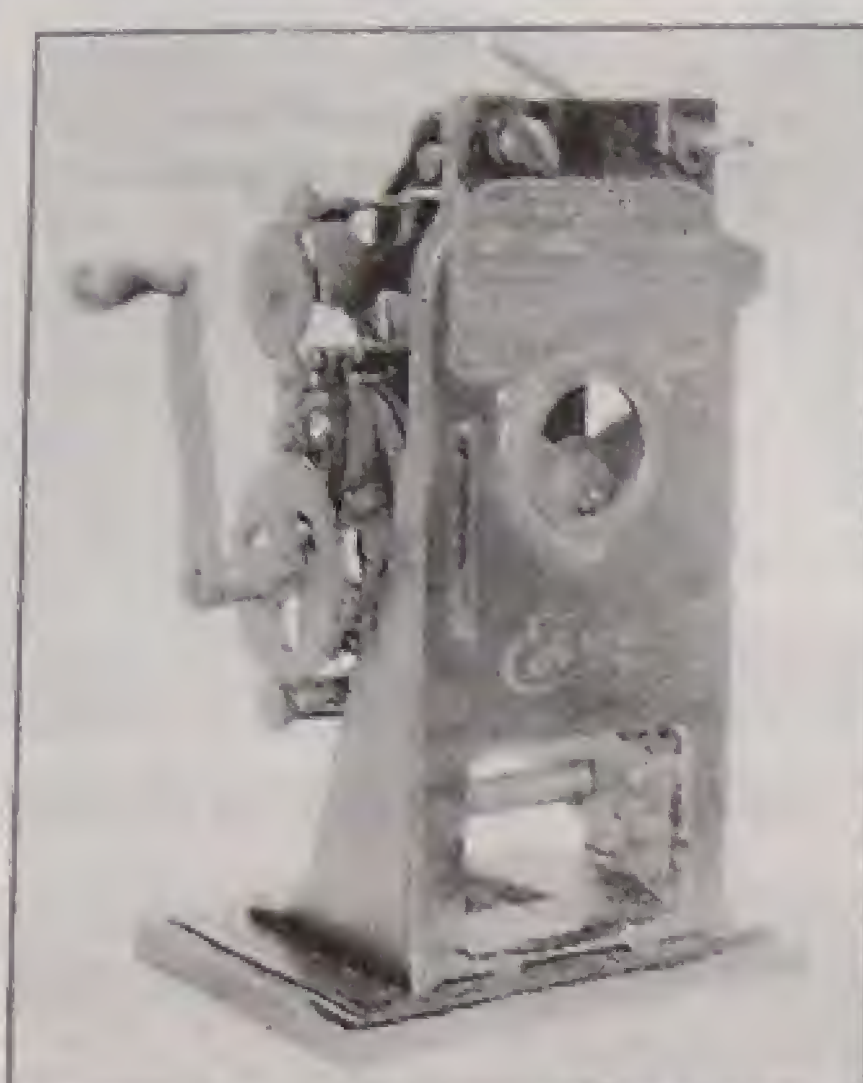
■ **Jan. 26:** Heavy rains swell the Seine River and cause severe flooding in Paris; damage is estimated at \$200 million.

■ **March 26:** Congress passes an amendment to the 1907 Immigration Act. It bars, among others, criminals and carriers of disease from entering the United States.

■ **May 1:** The National Negro Committee, founded in June 1909 by W.E.B. Du Bois, becomes the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

■ **June 19:** The first Father's Day is observed in Spokane, Wash., where the local YMCA and the Spokane Ministerial Association persuade the city to set aside the Sunday to "honor thy father."

■ **July 4:** Race riots break out in several U.S. cities, including Houston, soon after black boxer Jack Johnson knocks out Jim Jeffries for the world heavyweight championship. At least eight blacks are reported killed.



■ **Aug. 27:** Thomas Edison unveils his latest invention, talking motion pictures, for invited guests in West Orange, N.J. The device is called a "kinetophone," combining the sound of a phonograph with the images of a motion picture camera. His vision is to have a talking motion picture played in theaters in two years.

## 1911

■ **March 25:** During working hours at the Triangle Shirtwaist factory in New York City, a fire breaks out on the ground floor, and upstairs workers are trapped. Most of the 146 people who die are women earning \$1 for a 10-hour workday.

■ **May 15:** The U.S. Supreme Court issues a landmark decision finding Standard Oil Co. guilty of restraint of trade and orders its dissolution within six months.

■ **Dec. 10:** Marie Curie is awarded the Nobel Prize for chemistry, becoming the first person to win two of the coveted awards. The Frenchwoman was awarded the Nobel Prize for physics in 1903 along with her husband, Pierre, and Henri Becquerel, for studies of radioactivity.

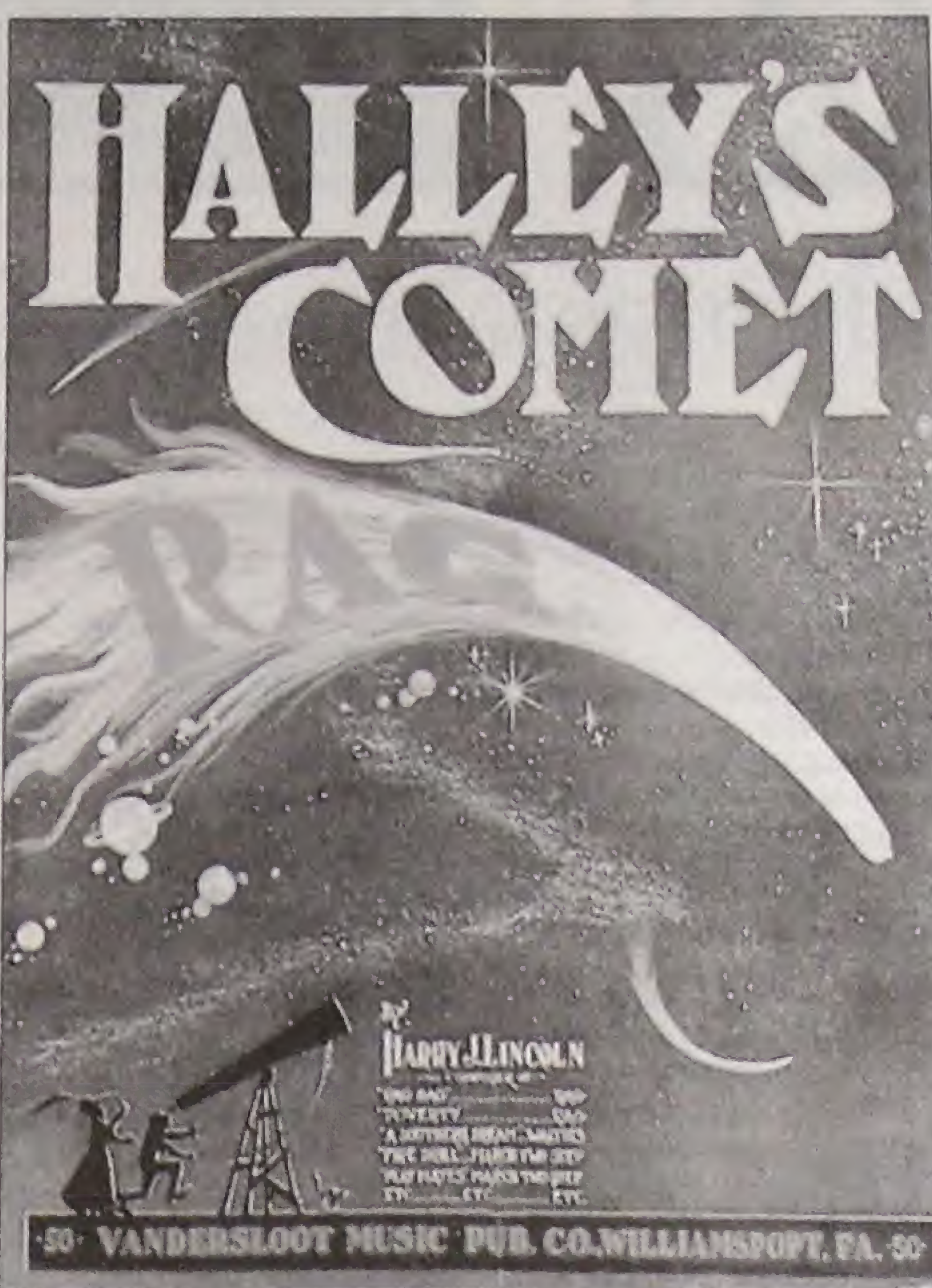
## 1912

■ **Jan. 6:** New Mexico becomes the 47th state to join the Union.

■ **Feb. 14:** Arizona becomes the 48th state to join the Union.

■ **March 12:** The Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. has its origin in Savan-

## A heavenly obsession



Halley's comet prompts an outpouring of pop culture, including a song.

With fear and apprehension, the world awaits the impending appearance of Halley's comet.

Mankind's fascination with comets, and the fear of them, are as old as the recorded history of the heavenly visitors — at least 2,000 years. And in 1910, the reappearance of Halley's comet after 75 years sparks mass hysteria. Superstition is alive and well. But the fear also has a basis in science. Scientists predict that Earth will pass through the tail of Halley's comet on the night of May 18-19. Some believe that the tail contains a deadly poison called cyanogen, which could wipe out the Earth's population. From Berlin to Constantinople, Mexico City to St. Petersburg, terrified people gather to pray. Some attend doomsday soirees. Suicides are common. In Paris, the night begins with a thunderstorm that adds to the dread. In New York, crowds gather in Central Park, on Riverside Drive, in Greenwich Village ... and on most of the city's rooftops.

nah, Ga., where Juliette Gordon Low starts the first troop of Girl Guides. The name will be changed to the Girl Scouts in 1913, and its headquarters will be established in New York.

■ **April 20:** Fenway Park in Boston opens with a full house of 27,000 fans. The Boston Red Sox beat the New York Highlanders (renamed the Yankees the next year) 7-6 in 11 innings.

■ **May 18:** The first baseball strike takes place when 19 members of the Detroit Tigers refuse to play the Philadelphia Athletics after Tigers outfielder Ty Cobb is suspended because he mauled a spectator who taunted him at a game in New York.

■ **Nov. 5:** Woodrow Wilson becomes only the second Democrat elected president since the Civil War. With 435 electoral votes and 42 percent of the popular vote, he defeats Republican incumbent William Howard Taft and Theodore Roosevelt, who left the Republican Party to run on the ticket of the Progressive, or "Bull Moose," Party.

■ **Nov. 5:** Women win the right to vote in Arizona, Wisconsin and Kansas.

## 1913

■ **Feb. 17:** The Armory Show opens Feb. 17 in New York's 69th Regiment Armory, giving Americans their first glimpse of cubism. Paintings by Paul Cezanne, Paul Gauguin, Vincent van Gogh and other impressionists are included, along with those of American realist Edward Hopper and others. But it is Marcel Duchamp's "Nude Descending a Staircase" that is the object of greatest scorn.

■ **Feb. 25:** The 16th Amendment to the Constitution takes force; it empowers Congress to levy graduated income taxes on



THE DISCOVERY CHANNEL

Titanic embarks from Southampton, England, on its maiden voyage.

## Titanic's fateful voyage

First reports of the Titanic's encounter with destiny in the North Atlantic underplay the magnitude of the event.

"Passengers on giant liner Titanic transferred safely; ship collides with an iceberg. Titanic saved," say the headlines in the April 15 edition of the (Fort Worth) Star-Telegram. The accompanying report, from The Associated Press, goes on to say that the White Star liner — stricken on its maiden voyage from Southampton, England, to New York — is afloat, "now in tow," and headed for Halifax, Nova Scotia.

As the tragic tale unfolds, a waiting world learns that more than 1,500 people perished in the frigid Atlantic as the great ship slid into

the deep at 2:20 a.m. on April 15, 1912, two hours and 40 minutes after striking an iceberg while steaming through an ice field.

Only 711 people — mostly women and children — are rescued by the Cunard liner Carpathia and brought to New York. The 46,328-ton Titanic, the largest, most sumptuously appointed ship ever to put to sea, did not carry enough lifeboats for even half its 2,224 passengers and crew. Among the dead are such movers and shakers of the day as John Jacob Astor and Benjamin Guggenheim. The sinking of the "unsinkable" ship becomes a metaphor for the frailty of human existence and the limitations of technology.

incomes over \$3,000 per year.

■ **May 29:** Parisian socialites attend the premiere of Igor Stravinsky's ballet "The Rite of Spring," presented by impresario Sergei Diaghilev's Ballets Russes, and drown out the unfamiliar, dis-

sonant music with whistles and boos. Choreographer Vaslav Nijinsky has to shout out the complicated rhythms from the wings because the dancers can't hear the music, and an enraged Stravinsky leaves the theater in midperformance.

■ **Oct. 10:** President Woodrow Wilson pushes a button in Washington to detonate 8 tons of dynamite, opening the last segment of the Panama Canal and allowing the waters of the Atlantic and Pacific oceans to rush together. Nicknamed "The Big Ditch," it officially opens for business on April 15, 1914. The United States spent \$352 million to build the canal, which required excavations totaling 262 million cubic yards. There is also a cost in blood: thousands of construction workers lost their lives to disease or accidents.

■ **Dec. 13:** Leonardo da Vinci's "Mona Lisa," stolen two years earlier from the Louvre in Paris, is found undamaged in Florence, Italy. The suspect, Vincenzo Perugia, is caught when he tries to sell the painting.

■ **Dec. 24:** Seventy-two people, mostly children, are killed at the Italian hall in Calumet, Mich., where a cry of "fire" starts a panic during a Christmas program for families of striking miners. There is no fire.

## 1914

War is brewing in Europe. The major European powers, entangled in alliances, are lurching toward a global conflict that will bring about the collapse of empires and a profound realignment of world power. On one side is the Triple Entente, comprising Britain, France and Russia; the alliance will eventually include Serbia, Belgium, Italy and Japan. On the other is a coalition called the Central Powers: Germany, the Austro-Hungarian Empire, the Ottoman Empire and Bulgaria. The Balkans, long a theater of local conflict, are a powder keg which will spark a worldwide conflagration, the first global conflict in history.

■ **June 28:** The flash point comes when Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife, Sophie von Hohenberg, are shot to death in Sarajevo, capital of the Austro-Hungarian province of Bosnia-Herzegovina. The archduke, heir to the imperial throne, is the victim of a tubercular 19-year-old Serbian nationalist named Gavrilo Princip. Austria-Hungary uses the event as an excuse to neutralize Serbia, which has long been a troublesome neighbor.

■ **July 23:** Austria-Hungary sends Serbia an ultimatum, knowing that its terms will be rejected. No one imagines that Europe will go to war over a punitive action against Serbia, which is something of a pariah state. But the nations of Europe are entangled in a web of alliances. Czar Nicholas II of Russia decides to stick with his ally, Serbia, dragging France into the conflict. Germany is already pledged to back Austria-Hungary.

■ **July 28:** Austria-Hungary declares war on Russia.



A young boy salutes troops as they march by in New York City.

■ **July 31:** Germany asks Russia to cancel its mobilization. When Russia refuses, Germany declares war on Russia. Europe is immediately engulfed in a blizzard of mobilization orders and declarations of war.

■ **Aug. 3:** Germany declares war on France and invades Belgium; that draws Great Britain, a guarantor of Belgian neutrality, into the conflict.

A family tradition  
**Bowman's**  
 Stationers  
 Hallmark

Marge Larson-Bowman grew up in a small farming community in Tulelake where she graduated from high school and later moved to Sacramento where she went to Secretarial School. She has always loved bookkeeping and secretarial work.

322 Parker St. • Downtown Vacaville • 447-8430



Elizabeth & Del McCune

Del McCune was born Sept. 2, 1911, in Sioux City, Iowa, and grew up in Anderson, CA. After graduating from the San Francisco College of Embalming in June, 1934, Del worked in Redding, Oroville, and Chico, where he met Elizabeth Gabel. They were married in 1937 and moved to Vacaville. As of July 1, 1938, Stewart Funeral Home had a new owner and became Stewart-McCune Funeral Home. By 1942 McCune Funeral Home was well established and on its way to providing many years of care and service to Vacaville and surrounding communities. McCune Funeral Home also provided the ambulance service until the late 1950's.

**McCune**  
 GARDEN CHAPEL

MORTUARY • CREMATION • MONUMENTS • PRE-ARRANGEMENT PLANNING  
 FD-0388

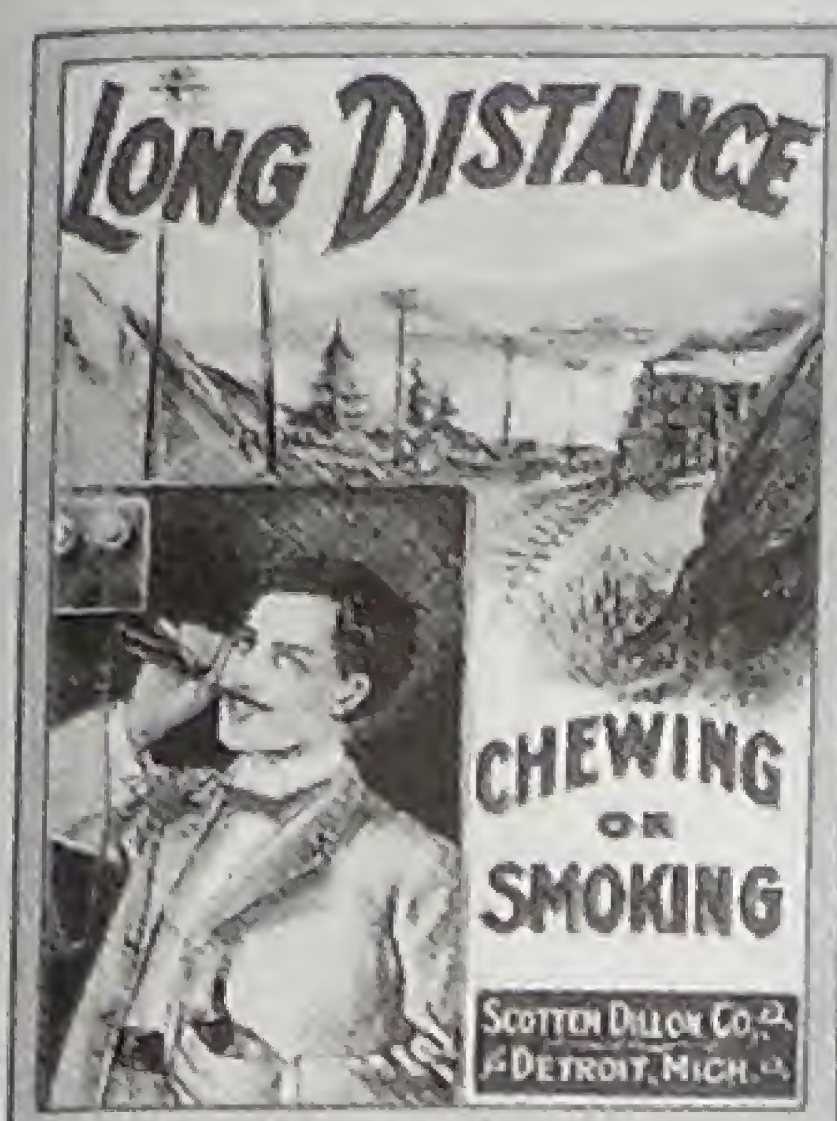
212 Main Street • Vacaville • 448-6546 • Fax: 448-6539  
 www.mccunechapel.com



## 1915

**Jan. 12:** Rocky Mountain National Park is created by an act of Congress on 262,000 acres of Colorado wilderness. The park includes 107 named peaks above 9,000 feet in elevation.

**Jan. 25:** With newspaper reporters poised to record every word, Alexander Graham Bell in New York and assistant Thomas Watson in San Francisco pick up telephone instruments and begin the first public transcontinental telephone conversation. At 4:30 p.m., the inventor of the telephone establishes the connection and says: "Hoy, hoy, Mr. Watson, are you there? Do you hear me?" "Yes, Mr. Bell, I hear you perfectly. Do you hear me well?" Watson responds.



**April 5:** Jack Johnson, the first black man to hold the world heavyweight boxing championship, loses his title to the latest of the "Great White Hopes." Johnson is knocked out in the 26th round of a scheduled 45-round fight in Havana, Cuba, by Jess Willard, a 6-foot-6, 235-pound Kansan known as the Potawatomi Giant.

**May 6:** George Herman "Babe" Ruth, a left-handed pitcher for the Boston Red Sox, hits his first major league home run off Yankee pitcher Jack Warhop at the Polo Grounds in New York.

## 1916

**Jan. 16:** Animosity between the United States and Mexico escalates after Mexican bandit Francisco "Pancho" Villa and his band of rebels order 16 American mining engineers from a train near Chihuahua City and shoot them Jan. 16. In March, Villa leads 1,500 guerrillas in a raid across the border and attacks Columbus, N.M., killing 17 Americans. Brig. Gen. John J. Pershing is ordered to Mexico to capture Villa. World War I will intervene, and Villa will be put on hold. A popular hero in Mexico, he will later be assassinated on his ranch.

**April 10:** The president of the Interim Olympic Committee halts the Olympic Games until war's end.

**April 24:** Over the Easter weekend, rebellion erupts in Ireland in what becomes known as the Easter Rising of armed Irish insurgents. About 2,000 rebels in Dublin rise against the British, whose police arrest the insurgency leaders and declare martial law. At least 450 people are killed and more than 2,500 wounded, mostly civilians. The fierce but short-lived rebellion has little public support. People hiss the rebel leaders, but the insurgents become martyrs when they are convicted of treason and hanged Aug. 3. The Irish Free State achieves dominion status in 1922.

**June 15:** The Boy Scouts of America is incorporated in a bill signed by President Wilson.

**July 6:** A portrait of Uncle Sam, with the original title "What Are You Doing for Preparedness?" makes its appearance on the cover of Leslie's Weekly. Created by New York illustrator James Montgomery Flagg, who used his own face as a model, the image went on to become the most popular recruitment poster of all time. During the next two years, as the United States became more involved in World War I, more than 4 million copies were printed.

**Aug. 20:** Congress creates the U.S. National Park Service.

**Oct. 16:** The first birth control clinic in the United States is opened at 46 Amboy St. in Brooklyn, N.Y., by Margaret Sanger. Police raid the clinic, and Sanger is jailed for 30 days. She founds the New York Birth Control League after her release and begins publication of the Birth Control Review.

**Oct. 24:** Henry Ford awards equal pay to women, \$5 a day.

**Nov. 7:** Jeannette Rankin, 36, a Republican pacifist, feminist and social reformer from Montana, becomes the first woman elected to Congress.

**Nov. 11:** President Wilson wins re-election on a platform that includes the slogan, "He kept us out of war." The United States will be heavily involved in the war within five months.

## 1915-1919

## MILLENNIUM NOTEBOOK



## America goes to war

The Great War is raging in Europe as the Cunard liner Lusitania sails from New York on May 1, 1915, bound for her home port of Liverpool. The British vessel carries a large complement of passengers from the still-neutral United States, despite warnings placed in New York newspapers that morning by the Imperial German Embassy in Washington, which advises that the waters adjacent to the British Isles are a war zone.

On May 7, about 10 miles off Ireland's Old Head of Kinsale, a torpedo dispatched by German U-boat 20 pierces the Lusitania's hull just below the waterline. The Lusitania, celebrated by Cunard as "the fastest and largest steamer in our Atlantic service," sinks in 18 minutes. Of 1,959 passengers and crew members, 1,195 lose their lives. Sources differ on the number of Americans aboard: at least 123, perhaps as many as 133.

Kaiser Wilhelm's Germany, fearful that the United States might join the Allies, apologizes to Wilson and commences payment for damages. But the Lusitania disaster amplifies America's anti-German bias; and former President Theodore Roosevelt, calling the sinking "an act of piracy," nudges a growing number of Americans toward a pro-war sentiment.



A solitary soldier reflects on the human cost of the Great War.

The Battle of the Somme from July to mid-November in 1916 is the bloodiest in history and comes after the single largest artillery barrage. The 140-day offensive involves 3 million men along a front of 20 miles. The Allied armies lost 794,000 men. The first tanks to be used in warfare, invented by British writer and Boer War veteran Ernest Dunlop Swinton, go into action Sept. 15.

But it's the year 1917 that will be pivotal to the history of much of the 20th century: The United States enters the war in Europe and begins to consolidate its standing as a world power; and the Bolsheviks of Vladimir Ilyich Lenin seize power in Russia and establish the first communist state. The ideological and military contest between the two great nations will be central to the history of much of the century.

On Jan. 31, Germany announces a resumption of unrestricted submarine warfare to counter a British blockade. On Feb. 3, a German U-boat sinks the American liner Housatonic off the coast of Sicily, and the United States severs diplomatic relations with Germany. America is on the road to war.

On April 6, at 1:18 p.m., President Woodrow Wilson signs a declaration of war. The same day, George M. Cohan writes a rousing patriotic ditty called "Over There."

On May 16, President Wilson signs the Selective Service Act into law, requiring all American men between 21 and 30 to register for military service. In June, U.S. doughboys begin arriving in France. They will continue to land at the rate of 50,000 a month.

On the 11th day of the 11th month, at 11 a.m., the guns fall silent on the killing fields of Europe, and the Great War comes to an end. The first global conflict in human history lasts four years, three months and 14 days at a cost of 10 million combatants killed and 20 million wounded.

Germans officially surrender in a railway car in the Compiègne Forest at 5 a.m. French time.

News of the war's end triggers delirious celebrations throughout Europe and North America.

PHOTO: IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM

## Celebrating everyday life

An animated drawing of three boys — two in baseball duds and another in his Sunday best — graces the May 20 edition of The Saturday Evening Post. It is the first cover illustration for the venerable weekly magazine by a 22-year-old artist named Norman Rockwell.

Rockwell will go on to produce 322 covers for the Post, charming and delighting audiences for six decades. The weekly, founded in 1728 by Benjamin Franklin, will buy an average of 10 Rockwell covers a year until his last one, in 1963.

"In those days, the cover of the Post was the greatest showcase in America for an illustrator," Rockwell will say later.

Rockwell dropped out of high school in Mamaroneck, N.Y., at age 16 to draw for Boys' Life, the monthly magazine of the Boy Scouts of America. He will become America's favorite illustrator and perhaps its most treasured artist.

## THE SATURDAY EVENING POST



COURTESY ANDREW HOLBROOK

He, more than any other artist, mirrors the nation's daily life during the first half of the century, giving vision to its values and dreams with topical, humorous and sentimental drawings of Americans in everyday settings.

## 1917

**March 2:** The Jones Act makes Puerto Rico a U.S. territory and Puerto Ricans U.S. citizens.

**March 31:** The Danish West Indies — 132 square miles that include the Virgin Islands of St. Thomas, St. Croix and St. John — become U.S. territories in exchange for \$25 million paid to Denmark.

**Dec. 18:** The 18th Amendment, outlawing the transportation and sale of alcoholic beverages, is approved by Congress and submitted to the states for ratification. It is the only amendment to have a time limit for ratification — 7 years — and the only one to be repealed.

## 1918

**Jan. 21:** In a fit of wartime intolerance, the New York Philharmonic Society bars all works by living German composers.

**March 31:** President Wilson signs the Standard Time Act, which begins daylight-saving time as a wartime measure to conserve fuel. It is vigorously opposed by farmers, because their workday does not coincide with the new daylight hours.

## 1919

**March 8:** Reports from Paris indicate that 6,000 American men have taken "war brides" in France during the past year.

**March 15-17:** Flush from victory in the Great War, delegates from 1,000 units of the million-strong American Expeditionary Force convened in Paris to found the American Legion, whose purpose is to help rehabilitate war veterans, promote national security and "Americanism."

**March 29:** Robert Goddard, a professor of physics at Clark University in Worcester, Mass., publishes a monograph called "A Method of Reaching Extreme Altitudes," contending that a trip to the moon by rocket may some day be possible. Newspapers ridicule Goddard's prediction and dub him the "moon man."

**June 4:** The 19th Amendment, giving women the right to vote, is approved by Congress and submitted to the states for ratification.

**June 29:** Sir Barton, with Johnny Loftus in the saddle, wins the 51st annual Belmont Stakes with a time of 2:17 3/4, becoming the first Triple Crown winner in history. The chestnut colt earlier won the Kentucky Derby and the Preakness.

**July 1:** The price of a stamp for a 1-ounce letter drops from 3 cents to 2 cents. It is the second time in U.S. postal history that mailing costs have decreased.

**July 4:** Jack Dempsey, called the Manassa Mauler because he comes from Manassa, Colo., wins the world heavyweight title with a third-round TKO of champion Jess Willard in Toledo, Ohio.

**Oct. 1-9:** The Chicago White Sox of the National League are heavily favored to take the best-of-nine games in the 16th annual World Series with the Cincinnati Reds. Sox pitcher Claude "Lefty" Williams, winner of 23 games during the regular season, loses all three of his series starts; outfielder "Shoeless Joe" Jackson, although hitting .375 in the series, doesn't come through in scoring situations. The Reds win, five games to three.

Next year, eight White Sox players will be indicted, accused of conspiring with gamblers to throw the fall classic.

SOURCES: THE PEOPLE'S CHRONOLOGY; A YEAR BY YEAR RECORD OF HUMAN EVENTS FROM PREHISTORY TO THE PRESENT; GREAT EVENTS OF THE 20TH CENTURY; CHRONICLE OF AMERICA; CHRONICLE OF THE 20TH CENTURY; THE ANNALS OF AMERICA; WHAT HAPPENED WHEN; THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF WORLD FACTS & DATES

## BIRTHS

Billie Holiday, blues singer, 4/7/15  
Orson Welles, actor/director, 5/6/15  
Arthur Miller, playwright, 10/17/15



Frank Sinatra, singer, 12/12/15  
P.W. Botha, South African leader, 1/12/16  
Irving Wallace, author, 3/19/16  
Yehudi Menuhin, violinist, 4/22/18

Francois Mitterrand, French Socialist leader, 10/26/16

I.M. Pei, architect, 4/26/17

John F. Kennedy, president, 5/29/17

Lena Horne, jazz vocalist, 8/30/17

Robert Mitchum, actor, 8/6/17

John Birks "Dizzy" Gillespie, jazz trumpeter, 10/21/17

Indira Gandhi, Indian leader, 11/19/17

Ella Fitzgerald, jazz singer, 4/25/18

Ingmar Bergman, film director, 7/14/18

Leonard Bernstein, composer/conductor, 8/25/18

Ted Williams, baseball player, 8/30/18

J.D. Salinger, author, 1/1/19

Jackie Robinson, baseball player, 1/31/18

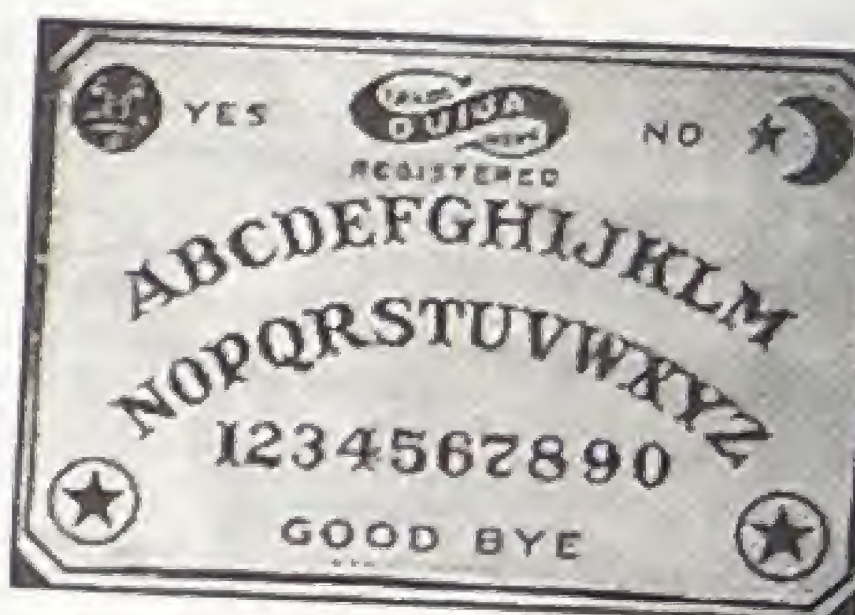
George Wallace, politician, 9/25/19

## FILM

## 'Birth' of an industry

D.W. Griffith's "Birth of a Nation," a three-hour account of the Civil War and Reconstruction, includes such cinematic innovations as the close-up, the panoramic shot and the flashback. But the 1915 film reflects the racism of the time. Blacks are depicted as either foolish or evil. Despite its controversial thesis, the film is pivotal in the history of silent movies, taking the medium out of the nickelodeon and into that new phenomenon, the movie palace.

## PASTIMES



## 'Witch' board

The prognosticating Ouija board becomes a national craze during wartime, when the country needs a diversion — or a means to determine the fates of soldiers, their families and the nation. In 1967, at the height of the Vietnam War, Ouija board sales will hit an all-time high of 2.3 million.

## A philatelist's dream

On May 13, 1918, William T. Robey, a stock brokerage clerk and ardent stamp collector, is among the first in line at a post office in downtown Washington, D.C., to buy a 100-stamp sheet of the first U.S. airmail stamp. He hands over \$24,



and what he receives from the harried postal clerk makes his heart stand still. The entire sheet of two-color stamps with an airplane in the

center has the engraving of the plane upside down. Robey's prized sheet of misprinted stamps is apparently the only one to reach the public. He later sells it to collector Eugene Klein of Philadelphia for \$15,000. Over the years, collectors will resell the stamps in blocks of four or singly. The whereabouts of 85 of the upside-down stamps are known today. The value of a single stamp is estimated at more than \$100,000.

## PASSAGES

Albert Goodwill Spalding, baseball player and sporting goods salesman, 9/9/15  
Booker T. Washington, former slave who founded Alabama's Tuskegee Institute, 11/14/15

Jack London, author of "The Call of the Wild," 11/22/16

William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody, 1/10/17

Auguste Rodin, sculptor, 11/17/17

Theodore Roosevelt, president, 1/6/19

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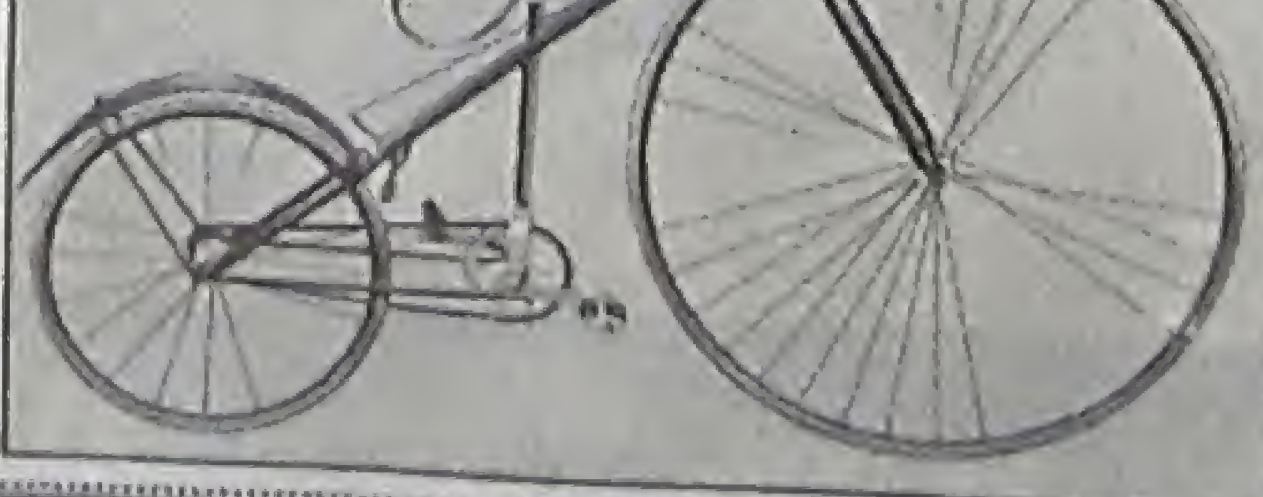
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## Pedaling back the years

H. J. Lawson's Bicycleette was the first safety bicycle design to get off the drawing board, appearing in prototype form in 1873.



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